**St. John’s Episcopal Church, Tower Grove**

**Vestry Minutes April 24, 2022 @ 12.45 pm – in person**

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Ann Quay Rushing, Liam Clements, Correne Murphy, Ronya McCool; Mary Ann Pikrone (by phone)

Absent: John Eads, Margarita Tschomakoff, Ann Balsamo, Brent Brower-Toland

Opening prayer, Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn

Declaration of a Quorum and Reminder of Behavioral Covenant – Nancy Emmel Gunn

**Appreciations**

* Ronya will draft and coordinate sending a thank-you card to Dave Malek for preaching
* The all-congregation workday on April 2 went well with improvements made to church building and upkeep of service and ceremonial objects.

**Accept minutes from March**

Ann moves to approve minutes as written. Liam seconds; approval is unanimous

**Requiem or Renaissance Update**

First meeting held April 2 in Columbia; Nancy, Correne and Mary Ann attended. All enjoyed worship but felt the overall program lacked concrete expectations. Correne reported some content focused on merging parishes. Nancy reported that St. John’s may tailor what is provided to chart our own course. Group will meet for deeper conversation on May 3.

**Committees**

* Building & Grounds (C. Murphy)
* Discussion of further gutter work and repairs to inside back of sanctuary.
* HVAC has been updated.
* The church has obtained a bid to replace the parish hall roof ($14K+) and a bid for repairs to the kitchen ($6700).
* Mary Ann is seeking assistance from Hoffmann Brothers concerning the boiler.
* Worship & Music (C Murphy)
* Holy Week update services and attendance update: St. John’s held one service each for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, and two services for Easter Sunday. Nancy reported 90 people total at 2 services on Easter Sunday, Easter Sunday (2 services)
* Beginning on Palm Sunday, St. John’s returned to serving wine on Sundays
* Correne has recruited a group of volunteers to serve as communion ministers.
* The Worship and Music committee meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month.
* Communications (M. Pikrone)
* Currently focused on publicizing Bingo Night, redesigning newcomer brochure, and redesigning church’s logo.
* Welcome (M. Pikrone)
* Looking into purchasing and assembling “welcome bags”
* Fundraising & Bingo (A. Rushing and R. McCool)
* Preparations are proceeding well and event registrations on par
* Outreach (A. Rushing)
* Church members are interested in helming a booth at Tower Grove Pride, September 24-25. Liam Clements will help get that set up and coordinate an event committee
* Education (N. Emmel Gunn for B. Brower-Toland)
* Discussion of restarting nursery during Sunday service; more information after the Education Committee’s May meeting
* Continue to engage M. Toschomakoff to monitor COVID numbers
* Confirmation class concluded April 20 and the Bishop will arrive May 29 for Confirmation Sunday.
* Budget (N. Emmel Gunn)
* Basement rental space—hearing is Wed April 27 and alderperson Megan Green has written a letter of support. If the hearing is favorable, St. John’s will continue to rent to Welcome Neighbor or upcoming interested parties;
* Welcome Neighbor will continue to pay rent pending City decision
* Pledges are down but income is where it should be. Offerings higher (Individual donations); not far off budget at all except for predetermined deficit.
* Rental income has accounted for more equilibrium
* Hospitality expenses high perhaps because 2021 expenses weren’t subbed until after January 2022
* Gas & water continue to be high, and in excess of expectations, with unknown reasons – otherwise everything else is on track.
* Ann reported the church has a new pledger
* Vestry decided to call Spire for energy efficiency analysis (WINDOWS);
* St. John’s has applied for a capital improvement grant; copies of the grant and the basement rental appeal passed around for inspection
* Special Outreach Fund (A. Rushing, N. Emmel Gunn)
* St. John’s has received $1000 from the diocese to use for outreach purposes (broad interpretation). A. Rushing moved to vote that vestry not participate in collective medical debt relief effort; Liam seconded; decision unanimous to hold the money for local uses to be determined next meeting.
* Easter lilies sale resulted in surplus for discretionary fund to be used for gas and grocery cards for those in need.

**Loose Ends**

* Priest’s hours – N. record # of hours by week for a month to get snapshot of priest’s duties
* Possibility of intern/deacon or hiring a PT fundraising person
* Church committees are working and empowered to do so
* Ann and Nancy will follow up with potential renters for basement space.
* Ronya volunteers to serve as as secretary

**Reminder of Next Meeting Dates**

As May 15 is the next 3rd Sunday that is the next meeting date, with the executive meeting on Wednesday, May 11. Liam Clements will attend from the vestry.

**Closing Prayer (Correne Murphy)**

Meeting adjourned at 1.24 pm