

Vestry Meeting December 19, 2021 @ 12:15 pm - virtual, via Zoom

In attendance: John Eads, Liam Clements, Margarita Tschomakoff, Ann Balsamo, Jeff McIntire-Strasburg, Anna Hall, & Ann Quay Rushing, Brent Brower-Toland, Steve Hoeplinger, Rev Nancy Emmel Gunn

Opening Prayer, Rev Nancy Emmel Gunn
Declaration of a Quorum - John Eads

Appreciations - Anna Hall will mail out letters to those mentioned.

Accept minutes from November: November meeting minutes were not sent out in advance, so the November and December minutes will be sent out together for the Vestry to review and vote via email to accept.

Requiem or Renaissance

- Five people from the community are committed to the primary team: John Eads, Mary Anne Pirkone, Rodney Malone, Correne Murphy, and Matthew Green - alternates: Ann and Tony Balsamo, Susan Rowley and Cindy Keyte
- First meeting is scheduled for January 22

Vestry Elections

- Through conversations, we have secured people that are willing to serve on the Vestry.
- No one has responded to the email request for new nominations, so the positions are filled.
- Anna Hall, Jeff McIntire-Strasburg, and Steve Hoeplinger will be stepping off of the Vestry.
- John Eads has stepped down from his term as Senior Warden, and Ann Quay has agreed to step in as Senior Warden for next year.
- There will be three three-year terms being elected (one of whom is Liam). One person will be filling a one-year term.
- Margarita Tschomakoff has requested to step out of the role as Junior Warden, so that position also needs to be filled. The definition of this position needs to be defined and articulated. This needs to be more of an 'assistant senior warden' position. Traditionally speaking, the position has been designed to cover the building premises, but that has changed some over the years.
 - The Senior Warden is the Rector's Warden
 - The Junior Warden is the 'people' warden

Annual Reports

- Each committee needs to have the Annual Reports ready to present for the Annual Meeting - Due date for reports are January 9th.

New Committee for Community Engagement

- Almost every week at St. John's we have guests - we need to have people willing to serve in intentional welcoming roles.

- How can we be sure that we've answered people's questions and follow-up with people that are in the church for the first time.
- We can revisit this as a 'formal' structure again in February.
- It would be a good idea to revisit the weekly vestry person announcement-making rotation.
- In the Parish Office, there is a Church Calendar that is being made to share with the entire Parish. This Calendar will include all the happenings of the church (meetings, events, special services, etc.). We share the space with the NA groups, so need to be sure we're securing space in an intentional way.

Stewardship

- We are now in the \$70k range, and inching closer to the \$102k window for pledges. If we come up shy on that, then we have to reorganize and cut back on the budget. The hope was to try to keep the budget about the same from 2021, but our pledges are down.
- Jeff can double check that the link in the eblast is the functioning link for people to document their intended pledge for 2022.

Budget

- We are living within our means and are very tight within our budget. We won't need to borrow from ourselves at the end of the year.
- Given the circumstances over the past two years, we have not had a fundraiser, which is something that we really need to be looking at into the upcoming year. The reality is that it takes some manpower to put a fundraiser together. Having a goal in the budget is a good idea.
- The upstairs counseling spaces are being rented and up to date with their rent. The downstairs tenants are still not paying rent. We need to have someone look at that space and be able to document what that space needs to meet the code. We need to make sure that the space is up to code with a formal request to the Building and Grounds committee. Nancy will send an email to B&Gs.
- Because pledges are coming in slowly, there is not a complete Budget to present at this time.
- Mission Driven Budget into four categories: Worship, Pastoral Care, Christian Formation, Mission and Outreach. We can present these categories to the parish when the budget is put together and formalized for the annual meeting.

Vestry Retreat

- Anticipated for February (Zoom?) - will have to wait until Feb to make a decision about in person or virtual, meeting in person would be ideal and better, but we'll have to wait and see. Maybe Dave Malek could still connect us to the Mercy Center.
- Discussion about what that retreat should look like - in the past, we've had (1) team building, (2) Defining roles, (3) organizing/structure
- Work: Vestry meeting as part of the retreat
- Pick a date to have it on the calendar: February 26 (Saturday) - in place of February Vestry meeting

Priest's Report

- We had a successful Advent Concert.

- This was our first time having wine with communion. We can talk about having a juice, non alcoholic option as well.
- What would we anticipate for numbers on Christmas Eve? A review of the parochial report would give some insight to numbers.
- Confirmation Class, joining with Trinity (5 from our congregation and 2 from Trinity) will start in February - the Bishop will come in late April for a confirmation service (not on a Sunday but a weekday service)
 - What is the age cut off for the confirmation class? 12+
- Acolytes are starting again! Jesse BT will help on Christmas Eve.

Housing Allowance

- Vestry voted unanimously to approve Rev Nancy's housing allowance.

Loose Ends

- Curiosity around how a Deacon would be assigned to St. John's.

Next Meeting: January 10th @ 6pm via zoom to vote on the proposed budget

- The Finance Committee (John and Ann and Nancy) will be meeting a week before to confirm the numbers.