

# **St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove**

## **Vestry Meeting Minutes for February 26, 2022**

**Present: Nancy Emmel Gunn, Ann Quay Rushing, Correne Murphy, Ann Balsamo, Brent Brower-Toland, Liam Clements, John Eads, Ronya McCool, Mary Anne Pikrone, Margarita Tschomakoff**

### **Opening Prayer - Nancy Emmel Gunn**

1. Opening prayer and business
  - a. A quorum is declared and all are reminded of Behavioral Covenant. All are present – no assignments to be made.
  - b. Appreciations were made.
  - c. Ann Balsamo motions to accept the minutes from December and January Vestry meetings. Brent BT seconds. All in favor.
  - d. Mary Anne Pikrone motions for a vote to be made on electing Correne Murphy as Junior Warden. Ronya McCool seconds. All in favor.
2. Requiem or Renaissance update
  - a. First session has been postponed in light of COVID-19. April 2<sup>nd</sup> is the date for the first meeting now.
3. New Committee for Community Engagement, Welcome
  - a. Nancy notes that the Vestry is the spiritual leadership of the church. She states that we need to be coordinated in how we welcome new worshippers. She asks for a motion to create a Welcoming Committee with vestry representation. Ann B motions, Ann Quay seconds, all in favor. Mary Anne Pikrone offers to chair the committee.
4. Update on Welcome Neighbor
  - a. They have paid January and February rents at \$600/month per prior authorization. City inspection has been completed and the space did not pass. However, the issue is not with the code as previously thought but rather that the basement is zoned residential as part of the apartment. We have 30 days to appeal. Nancy will ask John Richards to file an appeal on our behalf and inquire to the Diocese whether

legal representation from the Diocese is necessary or if having a parishioner represent St. John's is appropriate. Also noted that we can contact our alderperson Megan Green if and when appropriate.

5. Budget

- a. Nancy notes that we should be bringing in between \$8,000 and \$9,000 per month and we brought in \$3,500 in January. Ann B suggests that we begin making weekly Vestry announcements during announcement time, during which we can mention budget updates. John suggests that we need to bring back having a financial narrative provided to the vestry quarterly as previously provided by Steve Young. Ann B suggests that the finance committee meet monthly and task themselves with creating said financial narrative. Finally, Ann B suggests we table further conversation, that she set up a finance committee meeting, and that we proceed with mentioning the budget in announcements.
- b. Ann B suggests we proceed on conducting two fundraisers this calendar year. Ann Q motions to move forward with fundraisers, Brent B-T seconds, all in favor. John will send Diocesan guidelines on alcohol at Church functions to Nancy and Ann B.

6. Review and Approval of Parochial Report for 2021 (10 minutes)

- a. Parochial report was presented and reviewed. Ann B motions to accept the report as submitted, Ronya McCool seconds, all in favor.

7. Priest's Report (10 minutes)

- a. Confirmation classes start next Wednesday and will be in person over six meetings. There are five people from St. John's and one person from Trinity attending the classes. They will be confirmed on May 29<sup>th</sup>. Ann B suggests we have a celebration to which Nancy agrees.
- b. Nancy announces that she was elected to the Diocesan Council and is the clergy representative from our convocation. This is a one year appointment. She is looking forward to the role.

- c. Recent building and grounds happenings include some HVAC repairs, a pipe in Bob's office being repaired, and upgrading air filters. A new vent was installed as well.
- 8. Loose ends ( 2 minutes)
  - a. There were no loose ends.
- 9. Reminder of Next Meeting Dates (2 minutes)
  - a. Next meeting is March 20<sup>th</sup>. Executive Committee meeting March 16<sup>th</sup>. Mary Anne Pikrone to attend Executive Committe as at-large Vestry member.

**Closing Prayer (*Nancy Emmel Gunn*)**