

**St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove**  
**Vestry Meeting March 20, 2022 @ 12.15 pm – in person, Wainwright Courtyard**

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel-Gunn, Correne Murphy, Ann Quay Rushing, Ann Balsamo, Mary Ann Pikrone, Margarita Tschomakoff, Liam Clements, Ronya McCool

Absent: John Eads

Opening Prayer, Rev. Nancy Emmel-Gunn

Declaration of a Quorum and Reminder of Behavioral Covenant – Nancy Emmel Gunn, Ann Quay Rushing

**Appreciations**—St. John's has a new organist!

**Accept minutes from February**

Ronya motions to approve minutes from February's vestry meeting. Liam seconds. All in favor.

**Requiem and Renaissance Update**

Program is up and running. Nancy and Susan Brower-Toland will represent St. John's for first meeting on April 2.

**Committee Reports**

Nancy encourages each committee to prepare and present minutes at each vestry meeting for transparency and accountability.

- Buildings and grounds (M. Tschomakoff)
  - Rodney Malone is coordinating a congregational workday on April 2.
  - B&G committee addressing roof over parish hall and procuring evaluation and assessments of various needs as well as obtaining quotes/recommendations for electrical work. Remediation has taken care of asbestos. Keith has been in contact with people to recommend electrical companies for an assessment;
  - Other interior repairs—walkway installation, stairway repair—are well underway courtesy of Gary, with painting, etc to be completed during workday.
  - Discussion of updating kitchen and rules for kitchen use by outside groups.
  - Identification of needed repairs (gutters, windows, etc) throughout the church.
- Basement rental space (A. Rushing)
  - Discussion of appealing City's inspection; 30 days from date of appeal

- Epworth is potentially interested in renting the fellowship hall beginning in June; Nancy moved to continue talks and set rent; Correne moves to accept, seconded by Ann Rushing. Vestry unanimous for motion.
- **Worship (C. Murphy)**
  - Per diocese, masks are now optional; no changes to social distancing requirements
  - For Holy Week, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services have been set
  - Easter Sunday: 2 services outside in the courtyard, 8.30 am and 10.30 am
  - The diocese has said we may resume use of wine; we will wash and use individual cups donated by Gary, and begin serving wine the Sunday before Palm Sunday.
  - Correne is recruiting communion ministers.
- **Communications (M Pikrone)**
  - Committee is updating communication guidelines and social media best practices to coordinate the church’s information needs across a variety of platforms.
  - MaryAnn met with Janis Greenbaum for advice on techniques to employ social media, website, and blogging, etc.
  - Vestry discussed how to advertise special events (eg. Holy Week, etc) for passerby to let people know we’re here and active (banners, fliers, ads)
  - MaryAnn has identified several neighborhood publications and placed ads for the church in them.
  - The committee is looking into updating the church logo and redesigning the newsletter/welcome brochure.
  - Vestry discussed how to improve communications with newcomers
  - Nancy reiterates from January meeting that vestry are ambassadors to community. She notes that we have new people coming in each Sunday. Pay attention to people we don’t recognize and welcome them.
  - Ann Balsamo reiterates that we should have one vestry person make Sunday announcements in rotation and Nancy agrees this could be added to the worship schedule.
- **Fundraising (A. Balsamo)**
  - April 29 bingo event is underway; looking for volunteers and registration help
  - Planning for next concert event as a joint tribute to Scott Joplin and in memoriam of Bryan Cather.
  - Ann hopes to engage ragtime musicians from the Scott Joplin House.

**Budget (Rev. Nancy)**

- Utilities high for unknown reason yet we’re barely a third of the way through 2022.
- Vestry discussed various reasons, including obtaining an energy assessment [vote]
- Plate donations still low

– Nancy mentioned the opportunity for a capital improvement GRANT to offset the cost of a new roof, various improvements, etc and this continued the discussion of building needs.

**Priest's Report (Rev. Nancy)**

- The joint confirmation classes with Trinity are going well; classes will end the week before Easter.
- Clergy retreat
- Easter lily donations; excess goes to gas and food cards for those in need.

**Reminder of Next Meeting Dates**

Next meeting is April 24. As Easter Sunday is the third Sunday, the vestry will meet on the 4th Sunday instead.

Executive Committee meeting will take place on April 20; Ronya McCool will attend as at-large Vestry member.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1:54 pm

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Rental space John Richards filing appeal; reach out to Megan Green for letter;