

St John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove

In the City of St Louis

Vestry Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2020

Members Present: John Eads, Ann Quay Rushing, Anna Hall, Jeff McIntire-Strasburg, Liam Clements, Margarita Tschomakoff, Stephen Hoeplinger, Ann Balsamo, Brent Brower-Toland, Rev. Kevin McGrane, Rev. Sally Weaver, Interim Pastor, Rev. Dr. Warren Crews, Interim Pastor and Cindy Keyte Clerk and Secretary of the Vestry.

Member of Congregation Present: Allyce Bullock, Adrian Storey

Opening Prayer – 1:00pm – Warren Crews

1. Opening prayer and business
 - a. Declaration of a Quorum and Reminder of Behavioral Covenant
 - b. Assignment: None absent
 - c. Appreciations – Anna Hall will send out appreciations.
 - d. Accept minutes from August – accept minutes without names in appreciations. All in favor.
2. Treasurer's Report – Warren. Jim Kerns submitted Jan-August 2020 report. Will get Quarterly Report next month. We are \$29,000 to the black, which is not bad. This is in part due to some of the expenses being covered by the government and the Diocese hunger fund. We haven't received money from white loan fund yet. All in favor to accept Treasures report.
3. 2021 Stewardship Report - Ann Balsamo and Adrian, Sally absent. Consecration Sunday program has been done in past with lots of success. It's a turn key program, scheduled and written out, that leads up to a concluding event November 15, which in the past has been an in person event, like a brunch, featured speaker and turning in of pledge cards. Discussion to be had on how to work around it being an in person event. Adrian and Ally have agreed to Chair the Stewardship campaign and keep us on a weekly schedule. Ann reported she is Chair of the Finance committee and was asked to spearhead the Stewardship campaign. Each Sunday, there will be a series of witnesses, two to three people, who will share about what St John's means to them. Will need buy in and support from the vestry. Sally and Bob will track pledges, hoping Jeff will create Evite for event, and Anna as hospitality chair, how to get everyone to commit to being at the zoom meeting on November 15. Some ideas shared were drop off something on people's doorsteps, tie in a feature speaker, possibly the Bishop, has Welcome Neighbor be a featured speaker. The goal is to get people to commit in advance that they will attend. If you have ideas please send to Anna. This will start October 14 and witness

one will be that first Sunday. Concerns regarding how to execute online pledges and maintain anonymity for people. Discussion needed regarding when and how to announce pledges received; Eblast, during the event etc. The main message is we want you at Consecration Sunday. If people do not sign up or attend, can make follow up calls. Need to meet by end of the month, Adrian will keep us on schedule.

St John's barbecue. October Harvest Blessing, weather permitting, bring your own food picnic. First attempt to have in person gathering.

4. Racial Justice Committee – John Eads – He sent out written report by Kurt. There is not a lot to report outside of the document. We have organized into four different groups, using the becoming beloved community framework from the Episcopal church. We are in process of examining our parish history, how we contributed to and benefitted from racism, possibly partner with campfire conversations, to have those discussions. We are looking at Defunding police, reparations, what role we can play, facilitate communication with or support of organizations working towards racial justice. We are working with League of Woman voters, the ACLU with getting the vote out. We will be joining Tower grove in a side walk demonstration last Friday of each month, in front of St Johns, to raise awareness of BLM, by holding up racial justice signs. This will be put in eblast. This will be a good way to network and make connections. We are mindful that we are not the first group of white church people who are socially conscious and care about racial justice. We will be mindful of partnering with other organizations who are currently doing the work. We will be supporting Black businesses, Mann elementary and Tower grove south, and self educate through speaker series, possible book club, with idea of becoming aware of our own privilege and how we benefit from racist institutions. We are in discussion do we make these a part of the bigger community. We are open to ideas and suggestions.
5. Music and Worshipping – Ann Quay Rushing. Pet blessing is planned for October 4 and Harvest blessing October 11. Something special for All Saints day is being planned, pre wrapped communion wafers, consecrated that people can swing by and consume during All Saints service. We are waiting for ok from Bishop, but certain he will say yes. A morning prayer service will be starting and a short service. Music is going well, maybe a set of hand bells when in Church. Margarita will be the covid stats person, and will be the one to give us the go ahead for being back in church. The Bishop asked every Parish to have a Pandemic Response committee. She will keep track of the seven day average, with St Louis City stats. This will be in visual form by next meeting. The city health dept has heat map based on zip codes.
6. Building and Grounds – Kevin – nothing to discuss. Relative to kitchen, Sophie will be looking for other facilities rather than ours. Got info from city, takes 4 to 6 weeks to get commissary permit. Doesn't mean we will abandon idea to have kitchen qualify as a commissary. Marianne will help to clean up the kitchen and join Building and grounds.

She has offered to pay to have the oven cleaned. The room renovations are going along slowly. Gary hurt his back and has been out for a week but is getting back on schedule. Spectrum can do all our wiring basically for free. We budgeted \$7000 to \$8000 to replace steps going to offices, and got price of \$4200 to replace steps mid November. Correne made request that she be able to receive mail at parish office. Kevin supports idea. We will also be renovating old library of wainright bldg. and would like to make it into a general office for people. Perhaps could offer space person to person on an ad hoc basis. Would keep in the spirit of helping the homeless and hungry. Building and grounds would like to support. Motion that we support Correne in her ministry and use of parish office for her mailing address was made. All in favor.

7. Amendment 3 Discussion – Sally would like us to discuss and oppose Amendment 3, which seeks to modify Clean MO, which lays out process for redistricting every ten years with the census, starting early next year and modifies criteria for determining how districts are put together. We supported Amendment 2. Feeling among many dirty MO amendment, they are afraid Clean MO would be disadvantageous to their political fortunes. Clean set up a non partisan professional demographer, back to an older system of a bi partisan committee in the legislature. Clean MO is the constitutional law and this would undo that and take us a whole lot further back, one vote, one person, which means children don't count in the districting. Discussion was had regarding how Gerrymandering will negatively impact Medicaid expansion, health care, LGBTQ rights etc. This was put up for a vote to put a sign, no to Amendment 3. 6 yes and 3 no.
8. Loose ends - Warren sent a roster to clarify what peoples terms are. Need to be clear on that would like 9 people on vestry, 3 go off every year and 3 new people elected every year at the annual meeting. Last year we did not do that. Liam was elected for two year term and Margarita for one year term. What we do know are the people's whose terms are expiring; Ann Quay Rushing who will be finishing three year term, Brent Brower-Toland and John Eads term is expiring. And there is a fourth person expiring but that is not right, need to look at roster. We should have only three expiring. The three new people elected at annual meeting will be full terms. All current vestry members are eligible for reelection.

St John's has one convention delegate. This was Dave Malek whose position ended. Lorrie was thought to be replacement for Dave and Correne was elected as alternate at last election. We need to turn in name of delegate next month. Warren will talk to Lorrie and then send out email to ratify it. Will table and discuss in October. Tradition is that the nominating committee are those whose terms are expiring. Jeff will Chair Nominating committee.

Correne Murphy requested that she be able to use the Parish address for her new non profit Person to Person. She was just granted 501C3 status for non profit. The Diocesan

women have granted her money and the Bishop has asked her to come see him and one other person. Maybe a diocesan linkage could occur.

Reminder of Next Meeting Dates

TENTATIVELY SET FOR Sunday, October 17th at 1:00pm

Executive Committee Wednesday, October 14th at 5:00pm

Additional Vestry member present: Anna Hall

Closing prayer - Kevin McGrane

Respectfully submitted by Clerk and secretary Cindy Keyte