

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

### **Vestry Meeting Minutes, December 17, 2023 @ 12:53 pm**

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Liam Clements, Ann Balsamo, Brent Brower Toland, Jonathan Cureton, Ronya McCool, Correne Murphy, and Margarita Tschomakoff

Absent: Mary Anne Pikrone; Liam will update

Opening prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

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

### **Accept minutes from November 2023**

Ann motioned to approve, seconded by Liam; motion passed unanimously

### **Committee Updates**

- **Stewardship** (Rev. Nancy)
  - Campaign is at 50% of \$130,000 containing today's pledges. Tony will follow up next week with wording for cards from vestry—thank you cards to those who have pledged and followup cards for those few who have yet to pledge.
- **Renaissance team** (Rev. Nancy, C. Murphy)
  - Spiritual narratives coordinated by Rodney and Rev. Nancy were a success and very popular; congregants enjoyed connecting with others in this way.
  - Possibility of repeating during Lent with more speakers from congregation
- **Nominating terms for vestry** (L. Clements)
  - Both Brent Brower-Toland and Margarita Tschomakoff's terms end with this meeting. Thank you, Brent and Margarita, for your service to St. John's!
  - Jonathan Cureton will continue on vestry.
  - Liam will continue as senior warden
  - Vestry discussed a slate of candidates to fill new terms; Liam will approach.

### **Financials** (Rev. Nancy)

- Good news, we are not in the red this month!
- Total income is \$200,937 with 94% spent of budget—appropriate for December.
- This includes December's anonymous, one-time \$10,000 gift.
- Gas expenses still accounted for 158% of budget for sanctuary and chapel heat; in 2024 we will adjust upwards to plan gas expenses for \$11,000 instead of \$6,000.
- Net income equaled \$7,746 where we had projected a deficit of \$6,632.
- Reach out to parish; ask members to consider pledging 10% more where they can.
- Total assets: \$54,968
- White loan: \$67,535 as of September 30, 2023 paid at \$300/month

### **Priest's Report**

- Job description finalized for youth group minister; advertising has begun.
- Pastor at our UCC sister church is leaving; Nancy will meet with the incoming pastor.

- Vestry discussed the annual calendar of church and social events. Based on incoming input from vestry and hospitality committee Ronya will coordinate with Bob to create a calendar and flyers.
- Welcome Neighbor is vacating the rental property.
- Deacon search continues; in the meantime Rev. Nancy has welcomed Diana Wheeler, new to the area, who served as a deacon at her former church and who is now working with Nancy to serve as deacon here. We are grateful for her presence!
- Vestry voted to include Nancy's housing allowance in her compensation. Liam motioned to approve, seconded by Correne, and the motion carried unanimously.
- AhSa-ti Tyehimba-Ford, local musician and diocesan staff member, visited St. John's with Correne and Nancy and made equipment recommendations to improve the sound system in the sanctuary, totaling around \$2000. The amount has been donated by an anonymous source. Correne and Nancy will seek opinions on purchasing equipment from Joseph and Gina.

#### **Loose Ends – Open**

- Liam and Nancy formed a budgetary committee to plan and review the 2024 budget.
- Liam, Jonathan, and Ronya formed a retreat planning committee.

#### **Reminder of Next Meeting Dates – Nancy Emmel Gunn**

- Next Vestry meeting: As January 21 is the annual meeting and potluck, vestry discussed moving January's vestry meeting to January 11 by Zoom, and choose a representative by email for the executive committee to meet by Zoom on Monday, January 8.

Liam motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ronya. Meeting adjourned, 1.43 pm

#### **Closing Prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn**