

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

### **Vestry Meeting Minutes, February 18, 2024 @ 12:05 pm**

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Liam Clements, Dr. Jeffrey Carter, Jonathan Cureton, Ronya McCool, Correne Murphy and Mary Anne Pikrone, joined by Paul Freeman as possible Vestry candidate.

Absent: Ann Balsamo; Liam will update

Opening prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

Declaration of a Quorum, Nancy Emmel Gunn

Review of Behavioral Covenant, Nancy Emmel Gunn and Vestry Members

### **Appreciations**

- Wanda Lawry for Ash Wednesday service at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
- Scott Splater, Liam Clements, Hannah Harkey and Bob Gunn for shoveling snow and applying melt in time for Sunday services

### **Accept minutes from December 2023**

Mary Anne motioned to approve, seconded by Jonathan. Motion passes 5-1, Dr. Jeffrey Carter abstaining. No vestry meetings were held in January.

### **Check in**

Voluntary report from various vestry members on respective spiritual and physical well-being

### **Committee Updates**

To resume in March.

### **Vestry Retreat Summary and Discussion**

The vestry held a very successful annual retreat on February 3 and came away with a renewed spirit and directions in which to guide the congregation. Reverend Nancy, Ronya, and Correne will form an ad-hoc group to examine our current committee structure. Vestry discussed outcomes from that meeting--how to celebrate the vestry and St. John's, and how to best recognize church staff for their work.

### **Election for Junior Warden**

Jeff Carter nominates Correne Murphy; seconded by Ronya McCool; vote is unanimous. Correne will continue as Junior Warden.

### **Financials for January—Nancy Emmel Gunn**

We have spent 10% of our budgeted income; that is within expectations. For Profit and Loss, total expenses were \$466 less than what was budgeted. Gas (70210) was at 10%. Jeff Carter noted that everything is at 8.2%--did we pay diocesan apportionment? Nancy replied that this is paid every March.

Our current bookkeeper has put in his notice; Nancy has persuaded him to stay through April so we can find a replacement during tax season. We have identified two candidates and are waiting on a response from the second. The work would entail monthly reporting, an annual report, and generating payroll for 1-5 employees.

Vestry discussed requiring two people count plate donations as a good practice of accountability.

### **Priest's Report**

Nancy reports no applicants for youth group minister position as written; vestry discussed changing job description to require some college and posting the position at Rockwell House.

Help needed for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week—see Nancy to volunteer

Invitation to Paul Freeman to join vestry; if he agrees, we will set the election for March according to the bylaws.

Reverend Erin Pickersgill, the diocesan youth minister, will visit on March 17 and give a sermon

Music director Joseph Eckelkamp has offered his personal baby grand piano to the church if we will pay to move it to the sanctuary. Vestry discussed where it might fit, how to offer communion. Dr. Jeff Carter and Ronya McCool asked for an addendum to Joseph's contract that includes a "hold harmless" agreement that releases the church from liability should the piano incur any damage in its new home. Pending that agreement, the vestry voted to approve funds for moving the piano, with Mary Anne motioning to approve, seconded by Jonathan Cureton, and a unanimous vote.

### **Loose Ends – Open**

- Mary Anne Pikrone—Kitchen cleanout and rehomeing of kitchen items
- Third Wednesday in April is Administrative Professionals Day. Nancy will recognize Judy and Bob in some way.
- Ronya—April workday—ask B & G committee for focus
- Jeff—Can Travis coordinate spiritual narratives for Lent or 1x a month?
- How do we celebrate vestry commissioning?
- Vestry discussed our hospitality process. Stronger followup needed with newcomers—need 2-3 volunteers to send welcoming cards over 2-3 weeks; pair newcomers with congregants for welcome; buy new guestbook?
- Ronya—Redo welcome cards

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

- Next Vestry meeting: Sunday, March 17
- Executive Committee: March 14 at 7 pm by Zoom; Vestry representative: Mary Anne Pikrone

Meeting adjourned, 1:33 pm

**Closing Prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn**