

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

### **Vestry Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2023 @ 12:15 pm**

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Liam Clements, Jonathan Cureton, Ronya McCool, Correne Murphy, Mary Anne Pikrone and Margarita Tschomakoff

Absent: Ann Balsamo; Brent Brower Toland; Liam will update

Opening prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

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

### **Appreciations**

Sympathy card for Aly and Adrian; thank yous for Christine C (Thanksgiving Peace Meal), Ann B and Gina M (coordinating Bingo and Chili Cookoff)

### **Accept minutes from October 2023**

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

### **Checkin**

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

### **Committee Updates**

- **Outreach including Ministries Fair** (Jonathan)
  - Ministries fair was successful;
  - Feedback on what areas to improve for next year, eg there is no main list of committees, ministries, etc. Jonathan will check with ministry leaders (e.g, Altar Guild) to confirm roles and send out a list.
  - Vestry discussed possibility and cost of purchasing, transporting and installing a new oven being offered to us by a sister church for the kitchen and splitting the price between the church budget and Peace Meal. Hannah H. will check with supporters.
- **Stewardship** (Rev. Nancy)
  - Stewardship continues; Ronya M. will help stuff inserts into weekly service bulletins.
  - Amount being asked for this year is \$130,000 this year (over \$110 or \$120 last year).
- **Ad hoc budget committee (Liam/Ronya)**
  - Liam and Ronya provided a wrap-up of previous Sunday's budget presentation and relayed feedback received.
- **Convention report**
  - Diocese operating successfully and considerately embracing its parishes
  - Correne spoke with Kevin McGrane to indicate St. John's interest in being evaluated for solar panels; the diocese is negotiating with a third party to evaluate the potential of interested churches to install solar panels as a long term investment.

- Correne and Ronya will follow up with Kevin as to date and cost of evaluation and report back at December's meeting.
- Renaissance report
  - Prior senior warden Matthew Green had left a well-thought-out, well-received document for proceeding with Renaissance and the next step includes spirituality narratives.
  - Narratives are coordinated by Rodney M from November 26-December 17 and will take place during coffee hour. The point is to hear from our congregants and get to know about people's faith journeys and/or their current spirituality practices.

## Financials

- Good news! The church has received an anonymous donation of \$10,000 to St. John's as a one-time gift.
- We are at a good place to be with 81% of income projected as spent for year;
- Budget current as of end of October, so does not reflect fundraising money from Zee Bee or Bingo (\$1700 combined) as those funds were received in November.
- Childcare equates to \$60 a week for certified and trained childcare staffers; this service is important and we will keep it available.
- Deficit is not nearly as bad a shape as before; nearly the same as October 2022 with 2 months left of the year.
- Balance sheet shows that we have \$9900 in checking, \$33,000 in savings, all of which equal \$46,932 total assets (or 20% of budget).
- No outstanding credit card debt as we pay the bill each month.
- Ronya will follow up with Ann B. about reaching out to Episcopal churches to fund the rector discretionary fund.
- Peace Meal at \$474 for account; where expected.
- Draft budget for 2024 prepped between now and December meeting.

## Priest's Report

- Rev. Nancy is creating the job description for a youth group minister; will forward to Ann, Brent and Ronya; youth group meetings will take place at Amen House at Oak Hill Presbyterian.
- Nancy's renewal of ministry ceremony is complete! She's official! 😊
- Nancy continues the deacon search; no firm plans from diocese as to which deacons will be assigned where.
- The Diocesan Convention voted to raise the base salaries of its priests. Nancy brought this to the Vestry meeting for review. Nancy also brought up the issue of self-employment tax. The vestry will vote on the issue.
- Liam will investigate whether we need a new contract now that Nancy is our full-time rector.
- Sound system—Correne and Nancy will meet with Asati from the Cathedral who will visit to evaluate our sound system and what can be done to improve it. The vestry recommended getting input from music director Joseph as well as Gina M. and Jeffrey C.
- The vestry discussed the potential of rewiring the building for better Internet. Mary Anne is the contact for wifi issues for rentals.

### **Loose Ends – Open**

- Christmas falls on a Sunday this year; Vestry discussed holding two (Sunday morning and Monday morning) or three services (morning services plus Christmas Eve).

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

- *Next Vestry meeting: December 17*
- *Executive Committee: December 12, Zoom 7pm*
  - i. *Additional Vestry member present – Mary Anne*

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

Meeting adjourned, 1.43 pm