

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove

Vestry Meeting Minutes, October 22, 2023 @ 12:06 pm – in person

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

Absent: Ann Balsamo; Brent will update

Opening prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

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

Appreciations – Zee Bee, and sympathy card for Adrian

Checkin

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

Accept minutes from August and September

Liam motioned, Jonathan seconded; motion passed unanimously

Committee Updates

- **Communications** (Ronya)
 - Will continue event flyers
 - Possibility of meeting with Janis Greenbaum to talk about specific ideas for PR efforts.
- **Outreach including Ministries Fair** (Jonathan)
 - To take place during coffee hour on November 5. Layout is finalized; working on contacting representatives for ministries.
 - Mary Anne will reach out to Isaiah 58 for a representative.
 - Peace Meal has recruited a volunteer coordinator;
 - ECM continues to be virtual; Christine has all she needs;
 - Correne wants to establish a last report from R & R to vestry & make proposals for implementing changes; R & R will establish mid-November meeting.
- **Stewardship** (Liam/Nancy)
 - Tony Balsamo is helming; has lined up at least one speaker
- **Fundraising Events: Zee Bee and Bingo** (Ronya)
 - Zee Bee Market fundraiser is concluded and made close to or above same as last year (\$500-\$600). Ronya has reached out to Zee Bee for exact figures and wrap up.
 - Bingo night is progressing well; prizes are coming in. Mary Anne will reach out to MLS Soccer and MO Botanical Garden

Financials for August, 2023 revised and September 2023– Nancy Emmel Gunn and Report from Executive Committee Ad Hoc budget team

- Ad-hoc committee—A calculation error meant reporting \$1000-\$2000 less than what we had. We concluded August with a net ordinary income negative \$10,000.
- White loan—amount owed is not \$14,000, as previously reported, but \$68,220 as of 9/30/23. The total amount was reported incorrectly before Nancy's tenure; in 2020 when the decision was made to move offices and upgrade, an additional \$15,000 was used from White loan which brought the full amount to \$75,000—but this full amount was never reported to the parish bookkeeper. Since February 2021, we have paid down to the original loan amount to \$68,220 at \$342/month.

- White loan taken out in 2017; deeds of trust filed against real estate with amendments taking us to the current figure; so there is a lien against the property we borrowed \$75,000 originally for repairs to the church building (roofing, tuckpointing, waterproofing, A/C system)
- Rev. Nancy worked with bookkeeper Michelle Walsh to review our financial processes. She made some minor recommendations, but is satisfied our processes are sound. The books are reconciled monthly and our corrections per the White loan are appropriate.
- Pledge down \$68% in September; offerings totaled 64%; we have paid 75% of pledges
- Grants
- Peace Meal on track at 79%
- Worship expenses are a little high
- B&G – at 65%; gas is high—\$9000 at 149% (Jan-Apr) sewer also high
- Closed month of September w/ deficit of \$7568, which is less than August's deficit
- Assets of \$40,000 which is roughly 20% of our \$200,000 budget
- Ronya will investigate solar for flat roofs

The ad-hoc committee will meet and present budget situation to congregation by November 12.

Priest's Report – Nancy Emmel Gunn (15 minutes)

- a. New Ventures in Community Ministries Grant and interim activities for Youth Group—church received \$18,000 grant to be announced at convention; Nancy will create and distribute job description for youth minister.
- b. Nancy out of town October 25-27; Mary Haggerty celebrating October 29 while Nancy is co-celebrating Eads baptism.
- c. Renewal of Ministry service scheduled for Saturday, November 18 @11am. Loop in hospitality to provide treats; Peace Meal is Thanksgiving Meal; Jonathan will reach out to Anna to coordinate.
- d. Deacon search – Cathedral has made suggestions for deacon; a recent graduate will serve on 5th Sunday and to assist with preaching, engaging the community, etc.
- e. Convention Nov. 3 and 4! We send Lorie Kintz and Correne Murphy with Rev. Nancy.

Loose Ends – Open

- Pride STL Thanksgiving event will serve 200 people; will need church on Wednesday, Nov. 22.
- Ad-hoc committee will meet and develop plan for presentation and for vestry
- Grant for electrical work expires; reach out to coordinator to say we have trouble coming up with matching funds – Liam will communicate with Desiree Bratten
- Welcome Neighbor—we have sent a new lease for full amount of \$1000; Liam will follow up
- Internet service – went out 2 weeks ago; nothing better at this time. Fiber optic not available through Charter/Spectrum, but we did investigate and purchase new modem
- Possible to find someone who could be on call for buildings? Subject to election as junior warden; someone who can be a presence in the building.

Reminder of Next Meeting Dates – Nancy Emmel Gunn

- *Next Vestry meeting: November 19*
- *Executive Committee: November 16, Zoom 7pm*
 - i. *Additional Vestry member present – Ronya*

Closing Prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

Meeting adjourned, 1.20 pm