

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove
Vestry Meeting Minutes, April 16, 2023 @ 12:05 p.m.

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Matthew Green, Ann Balsamo, Brent Brower-Toland, Liam Clements, Ronya McCool, Correne Murphy, Mary Anne Pikrone, Margarita Tschomakoff.

Opening Prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

Declaration of a Quorum and reminder of Behavioral Covenant—Nancy Emmel Gunn

Appreciations

Tracey and Easter services; Hospitality committee

Accept minutes from March

Margarita proposes corrections to title and denomination of Compton Heights Christian Church on S. Grand; Correne moves to accept minutes with year corrected from 2022 to 2023. Brent seconds, and vestry unanimously approves minutes.

Vestry check-in

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

Requiem & Renaissance Action Planning (Matthew Green)

Action Planning: Review and identify next steps, create action items, assign ownership

- April 30 church-wide announcement and reconvene R & R team afterward to do planning
- How best to include hospitality team in efforts?

Committee Updates

- **Buildings and Grounds (M. Tschomakoff)**
 - Gary slated to take care of several minor repairs: thresholds, plaster in sanctuary. Margarita will reach out to Rodney and determine project status of tuckpointing above main entrance to church and to check flashing; when all exterior repairs done focus on parish hall thresholds, etc.
 - Stained glass repair is paid for but not commenced; Nancy will check on status.
 - Reichert has submitted bid for all electrical work \$25-\$30K. Vestry discussed paring down to most urgent items in order for Nancy to submit a grant to cover the amount on Wednesday, April 19.
- **Worship (C. Murphy)**
 - Lent, Holy Week and Easter were contemplative and glorious celebrations, respectively, due to many hands helping.
 - How can we put forth that kind of excitement and energy and pour it into future commitments? What's the best way to contact and mobilize the people of St. John's for Renaissance projects?

- **Fundraising** (Rev. Nancy)
 - Quintet concert—Nancy reported on bureaucracy issues obtaining a picnic license
 - Share the event on social media and get the word out to community

- **Financials** (Rev. Nancy)
 - We are in expected range for plate donations and rental income
 - Expenses are as expected for ¼ of year
 - Gas is too high; team will run comparisons of gas from last year v. this year
 - Church in the black for \$576
 - Vestry discussed Ann’s proposal to place more funds for Christian education
 - Church has registered for Tower Grove Pride in September: Liam will begin recruiting volunteers.
 - Vestry discussed possibility of local churches contributing to discretionary fund as a mission or partnership. Liam will coordinate this as Outreach given advice from Matthew and Ann on gauging our needs and their interest.
 - When we have \$ we give it away, when we don’t, we don’t—what do we do next?

- **Priest’s Report** (Nancy Emmel Gunn)
 - Collaboration with other congregations for Holy Week went well—hope for collaboration on future endeavors including youth group, hopefully by end of May
 - Oak Hill and Compton Heights interested in partnering with us in “listening to the community” in May and potentially September.
 - Grant app for electrical upgrades—see B & G report; but the bid has to be \$15K or less—vestry discussed partitioning it into subprojects
 - Accessibility issue for St. John’s—what is the history of bids for redesign? Nancy will contact Adrian, Rodney and Kevin. Can we apply for permits for ADA parking on Arsenal and Spring? Any knowledge of Paraquod resources?
 - CVPA holding a gun violence awareness event on April 24 at St. Margaret of Scotland as 6-month anniversary of CVPA shooting.
 - Child care group from another church will view space for potential rental

Loose Ends

- Save the Date: Newcomer’s Dessert, April 23rd; vestry members to attend
- Mary Anne will follow up with and invite newcomers
- Request for assistance with child care from congregation; our child care people are leaving end of May (students)—one paid person + 8 volunteers. What minimum age? Volunteers would need to complete Safe Child training.

Reminder of Next Meeting Dates

- a. *Next Vestry meeting: May 15 by zoom at 7 pm*
- b. *Executive Committee: May 11*
 - i. *Additional Vestry member present Ronya McCool @ 6 pm*

Closing Prayer (Nancy Emmel Gunn)