

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove
Vestry Meeting Minutes, February 19, 2023 @ 12:05 pm – in person

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

Absent: John Eads

Opening prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

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

Appreciations

John Eads will resign from vestry, and we recognize and thank him for his commitment and service steering the congregation during COVID years.

Accept minutes from January

Correne Murphy moves to accept minutes as written; Brent seconds. Minutes are approved unanimously by vestry.

Welcome Matthew Green as senior warden; vestry appointed Correne for 2nd year as junior warden with Matthew motioning to approve and Liam Clements seconding; vestry decision was, unanimous. Vestry discussed terms of memberships, vacancies, terms and tasks, especially finance. Nancy will confer with J. Eads about continuing to helm finance committee. Mary Anne runs for John's remainder of term; vestry will enter a time of discernment about finding a ninth member.

Requiem and Renaissance

- Matthew and St. John's representatives pulling together tentative Renaissance action plan
- R & R group is in discernment about how best to make changes
- Matthew will presentation at annual Vestry retreat, to take place March 4 at Mercy Center; 9 am + lunch

Committee updates

- **Buildings and Grounds (M. Tschomakoff)**
 - Rodney and Margarita note that furnace repair is needed; during an annual check Hoffmann recommended repair to blower in HVAC system (\$745), this issue may have contributed to last year's high heating bills.
 - Front façade resurfacing complete; east wall gutter repair complete; work will begin on north wall plaster repair. No progress on parish hall ceiling which will start after sanctuary repairs are completed. Reminder that any work we have done must be bid out unless it is donated to us.
 - Expenses for Sanctuary window--replace plexiglass and repair bullet hole, \$1,962.00 with \$1000 deductible. Ann Balsamo moves to approve, Ronya seconds; vestry approval is unanimous.

- Rodney discovered a historical review article of St. John's window replacement.

- **Worship and Music (C. Murphy)**
 - Bishop coming on August 27
 - Celebrated St. John the Evangelist (Dec 27) with Epiphany; will publicize 2023 date w/ homecoming
 - February 25 workday will focus on cleanliness of sanctuary;
 - Acolyte retreat at the Cathedral
 - Planning for Holy Week; recruit and organize acolytes, lectors and coordinate music
 - Correne's work (?)

- **Communications (M. Pikrone)**
 - No report this month

- **Welcome (M. Pikrone, N. Emmel Gunn)**
 - No report this month

- **Finance (J. Eads)**
 - No report this month

- **Fundraising/Stewardship (A. Balsamo)**
 - Tracy arranging Sondheim review concert for March 25. Vestry discussed details of selling beverages afterward via Square
 - Also planning a May 12 concert
 - Chili & bingo was a hit this past fall; vestry discussed repeating event in Fall 2023

- **Outreach (L. Clements)**
 - ECM continues to be virtual for 2023

- **Education (B. Brower-Toland)**
 - Education committee finding footing; kids education back on track thanks to Travis and Rodney; Susan offered Advent for adults and teens; Nancy coordinated youth confirmation class with Trinity Episcopal
 - Challenges: Young Adults lost momentum bc socially oriented; John Eads potential for social offering in late spring/early summer; parish meet & greet
 - Soup on Sundays – Anna and Nancy, Gina—Lent study with soup at 5 pm; short reading and discussion each week. Brent, Phyllis and Nancy coordinate readings; Anna, Nancy and Gina coordinate soup; end sessions with compline from NZ prayer book

- **Budget (N. Emmel Gunn)**
 - Nothing out of the ordinary; deficit of \$5000 already; spent more money than brought in for January
 - April – quarterly report to congregation for transparency

- **Priest's Update**

- Nancy preparing parochial report which is due March 1 every year; the draft will soon be available for vestry comment and approval.
- For the first time the diocese has asked for demographic information – age group and ethnicity; Nancy has used COVID sign in sheets to compile data; 78 people in 2022
- We are the youngest-trending church in diocese; we have sixteen kids under age 18; sixteen people over age 64 and the only parish in Missouri diocese with this age breakdown. Our congregation still is predominantly 5% people of color.
- Vestry retreat
- Nancy again elected as representative for Emery Washington convocation
- March 21-23 clergy retreat

Loose Ends

Vestry shared contact information with new senior warden Matthew Green.

Reminder of Next Meeting Dates

- Next meeting is Sunday, March 19, 2023; do we want to start retreat with meeting.
- Representative for executive meeting will be Margarita Tschomakoff on March 15, 6 pm via Zoom
- Vestry discussed possibility of holding vestry meeting during retreat; Nancy will discuss with organizers.

Closing Prayer (Nancy Emmel Gunn)

Vestry encouraged to share meditations, prayer and poetry for opening and closing prayer times.