

**St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove**  
**Vestry Meeting Minutes, January 15, 2023 @ 12.05 pm**

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

Absent: Ann Balsamo, John Eads

Opening prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

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

**Appreciations**

Vestry will send out appreciations from December.

**Accept minutes from December**

M. Pikrone moves to accept minutes with proposed minor changes, B. Brower-Toland seconds. December minutes approved unanimously by vestry.

**Requiem and Renaissance**

- Next St. John's representatives' meeting: Saturday, January 21
- Potential for renovations to repurpose St. John's into a multi-purpose event space. Per Bishop.
- Rev. Nancy has spoken to a local renovator as well as a NY priest who has seen success with same.

**Committee updates**

- **Buildings and Grounds (M. Tschomakoff)**
  - Next B&G meeting is February 27
  - Tuckpointing bids received + sealant B. Brower-Toland motions to approve Milbourn bid; R. McCool seconds. Vestry approves bid for \$2,065.00
- **Communications (M. Pikrone)**
  - Update website on weekly basis
  - Photo announcement in bulletin—if anyone wants to be excluded, photo exclusion form
  - Discussion of logo update and Pew Research
  - A. Rushing noted an encouraging fact--Facebook statistics show that St. John's sermons are being accessed and viewed 30-40x a week in between Sundays, which confirms online outreach. Ronya and Mary Anne will investigate statistics.
- **Fundraising/Stewardship (Rev. Nancy for A. Balsamo)**
  - \$100,132.00; over \$96,000
  - Will start earlier in 2023
- **Budget (N. Emmel Gunn for J. Eads)**
  - Overview of 2023 budget

- Comparisons between 2022-23
  - Church financials in good shape; we are in good standing.
  - Christian Education underspent; Brent notes most people donate items; Nancy invites \$1000 allocated for Pride 2023
  - Nancy has arranged for a deep cleaning of the church's bathrooms
  - Spire/gas expenses still high; inspection could not locate a particular reason
  - Electricity high
  - L. Clements moves to approve 2023 budget; C. Murphy seconds the motion. Vestry approves 2023 budget.
  - Assessments for 2023—this is the amount the diocese discerns each church is capable of paying based on parochial report. Bravo to STJ for paying full assessment in 2022!
  - M. Pikrone moves to approve resolution to pay 2023 assessment in full; B. Brower-Toland seconds; vestry passes motion unanimously.
- **Priest's Update (Nancy Emmel Gunn)**
    - A. Rushing wishes to not continue as vestry member and her one-year term as senior warden has ended. She looks forward to continuing to serve on the altar guild. The Vestry of St. John's thanks Ann for her service and leadership.
    - Rev. Nancy proposes a slate of candidates for re-election or election to the vestry: A. Balsamo, M. Pikrone, and M. Tschomakoff, and M. Green as potential candidate for election. A. Rushing motions to approve, seconded by L. Clements, and this slate is unanimously approved by vestry.
    - M. Tschmakoff initiates a discussion of by-laws and term limits; Nancy and Ronya will check into other churches' vestry member by-laws and term limits.

### **Loose Ends**

- Annual meeting January 23; reminder to send committee reports to Bob
- Music event – fundraiser – C. Murphy will initiate conversations with Tracy
- Vestry retreat, February 11 or 18 @ St. Mary's Conference and Retreat Center

### **Reminder of Next Meeting Dates**

- Next meeting is Sunday, February 19, 2023; executive meeting Wednesday, February 15 at 6 pm on Zoom. M. Pikrone will represent vestry.
  - Ronya will send out a document with 2023 vestry meeting dates.

### **Closing Prayer (Rev. Nancy)**

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