

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove
Vestry Meeting Minutes, June 25, 2023 @ 12:05 pm – in person

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

Opening prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

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

Appreciations – Dave Malek for preaching during Nancy's vacation; Jonathan and Matthew for moving the choir room; Shannon moving the nursery

Accept minutes from May

Minutes approval tabled pending changes.

Check in

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

Resignation of Matthew Green as Senior Warden

Announcement of new Senior Warden, Liam Clements.

Matthew gives an update on relocation out-of-state; we thank him for serving both on vestry; his tenure was short but his contributions were integral, especially as the leader of St. John's Requiem and Renaissance team.

Matthew recommended Jonathan Cureton to serve out his remaining vestry term and made a motion for same. Correne seconds, and the vestry vote is unanimous.

Requiem and Renaissance (M. Green)

This retreat is July 14 & 15 at Mercy Center; Matthew has notified Canon Whitney of plans, and Rev. Nancy has received feedback.

Committee updates

- **Buildings and Grounds (M. Tschomakoff, email update)**
 - Extra meeting coming up in July
 - Grant of 10K received toward electrical upgrades; bids are averaging 12K
 - Receiving bids to redo plaster in sanctuary; decision was made to put off plaster repair until next year for budget purposes.
 - Sexton will repair plaster underneath parish hall windows and assess church sign on front lawn.
 - Gas usage and costs are being monitored throughout Sanctuary and parish offices.
- **Fundraising/Stewardship (A. Balsamo, M. Green)**
 - Matthew created, and Ann edited, a fundraising calendar

- Playbook creation is in progress and will dovetail with a calendar for all steps needed to coordinate events.
- Will need to coordinate with communications committee in order to prepare and publish calendar and events.
- Need stewardship team in place by August as well as overall fundraising team.
- Vestry discussed potential for 2023-24 concerts and approaching congregants for assistance with teams/committees; how to leverage talents/new folks or even 3rd party folks not necessarily affiliated with STJ, eg. Welcome Neighbor and Pride STL
- Nancy will talk with Pride STL

Action calendar

- Vestry unanimously votes to approve proposed events calendar for remainder of 2023, with Matthew Green motioning to approve, seconded by Liam Clements.

Financials for May (N. Emmel Gunn)

- We are where we should be at 41% income
- Still waiting on monies owed from Brown Paper Tickets
- Grant line item is higher bc of 10K received for roof repair
- Peace Meal income at 42%
- Total income 45%

Expenses

- Liturgy expenses slightly high
- Christian Education monies not yet handed out to spenders
- General plant upkeep is at 62% of expenditures
- Keith tracking usage of gas as denoted in B&G report; all other expenses normal
- We have put in a claim with building insurance for repaired bullet hole in window
- Rental occupancy at 61%
- We're responsible with income, people are making pledges and plate offerings, but high expenses mean we are negative \$2,500.
- The church has \$51,000 in the bank
- Peace Meal - \$4,900 in bank; enough to operate through 2023

Priest's Update

- Collaborations with Oak Hill and Compton Heights continue
- Community listening—next event, perhaps on early Saturday afternoons
- Vestry discussed donating to MO Jobs with Justice for a Diocesan-wide Pride ad. R. McCool moved to approve, C. Murphy seconded, and vestry approves 4-1.
- Adult confirmation dates
- Requested diocesan assistance for 2024
- Mini-hiring committee to replace Tracey as organist. Job announcement created and sent out to guild of organists, MO diocese, and Indeed. One applicant so far.

Loose Ends

- Remind speakers to speak into microphone for hard of hearing

Reminder of Next Meeting Dates

- Next meeting is Sunday, July 16, 2023; executive meeting will be July 10 at 7 pm with Ronya McCool serving as vestry representative.

Closed Session

Matthew Green proposes, Ronya McCool seconds, and the vestry votes unanimously to go into closed session at 1.33 pm. Nancy Emmel Gunn not present.

Closed session and vestry meeting adjourns at 1.40 pm

Closing Prayer (Matthew Green)