

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove

Vestry Minutes for August 18, 2024 @ 12:05 PM

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Correne Murphy, Ann Balsamo, Jeffrey Carter, Paul Freeman, Dawn Indelicato-Faw

Visiting: Ezra Doyle

Absent: Jonathan Cureton, Mary Anne Pikrone

Opening Prayer by The Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn.

July minutes not ready for approval.

July financials not ready for review and approval.

Reminder of behavioral covenant and check-in.

Continuing matters:

Wainwright courtyard beautification grant application is in to Operation Brightside. Awaiting response.

Hospitality - Homecoming Sunday is 9/8.

Logo - discussion of process and intent. Impending need for branding for Pride in the Park. Ann Balsamo reviewed some of the graphics history of the last 15 years at St. John's. Correne Murphy asked probing questions about engagement and mission. Vestry recommends using approved LGBTQIA+ Episcopal shield for Pride. Motion (Carter/Balsamo) that Communications Committee provide, by 2025 annual meeting, recommendations on new logo and how that logo will be used. Motion passed. Vestry is truly grateful for Ezra's presence in the conversation today.

New matters:

Nominating Committee -- Vestry unanimously elected Dawn Indelicato-Faw to Vestry to replace Liam Clements. Nominating Committee formed, with Ronya McCool as chair. Senior Warden Ronya will ask two others from the congregation to join the nominating committee. Cycling off Vestry in January is Ann Balsamo; Mary Anne

Pikrone, Correne Murphy, and Ronya McCool will complete a three-year term, but are eligible for a second term.

Finances – Rev. Nancy reviewed past few years of outsourced bookkeeping, and current concerns about the recently hired bookkeeper. Last two weeks has included an inordinate amount of time discerning what gone wrong with bookkeeping and account reconciliation. July financials are still not correct as of 8/18. Checking account errors appear to have been balanced and corrected. Vestry notes lack of confidence in current bookkeeper, significant mistakes in managing payroll accounting, careless misattribution of expenses to incorrect categories, and lack of accountability from current bookkeeper. Motion (Carter/Freeman) to change bookkeeper as soon as practical and possible. Motion passes.

Stewardship – Ann Balsamo will chair 2024 stewardship drive, with at least two lieutenants to include Dawn Indelicato-Faw and Correne Murphy. The team is to meet within the next two weeks.

For follow-up:

1. Finalize July meeting minutes and approve.
2. Finalize and approve July financials.
3. Communication about Homecoming, what to bring and what will be provided.
4. Communications Committee logo recommendations (ongoing for several months)
5. Stewardship campaign
6. Begin budget 2025 conversation

Sunday announcements:

8/25: Ann Balsamo (include Vestry report at end of service)

9/1: Jeffrey Carter (include Vestry report at end of service)

9/8: Dawn Indelicato-Faw

9/15: Mary Anne Pikrone

9/22: Ronya McCool

EXEC MEETING: Thursday, September 19

NEXT VESTRY MEETING: Sunday, September 22.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Carter, recording scribe