

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove
Vestry Meeting Minutes, June 12, 2022 @ 12.05 pm – in person

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

Absent: Liam Clements, Ann Quay Rushing

Opening prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

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

Appreciations

St. John's is the proud winner of this year's softball tournament trophy, thanks to Travis Hall and the softball team and Rodney Malone in a final race for the trophy.

Accept minutes from May

John Eads moves to accept minutes as written. Ann Balsamo seconds and minutes are approved unanimously by vestry.

Requiem and Renaissance

- Next St. John's representatives' meeting on June 27
- The Bishop has asked to meet with the vestry of St. John's later in the year concerning the church building

Committee updates

- **Buildings and Grounds (M. Tschomakoff)**
 - We have received 10K grant for roof repair!
 - Apartment renters have renewed annual lease
 - Rev. Nancy reports St. John's won appeal to reclassify basement space. Church can rent out parish hall basement and is prepared to continue current lease
 - John Eads and Finance group interested in completing professional appraisal of rental spaces. Church has several rental spaces including one apartment; half are occupied, and all are current
 - No updates about other organizations' interest in rental space.
 - Mary Ann Pikrone is new "Chair of Kitchen" and will be responsible for maintenance and upkeep of same.
 - Sexton is not well; need gutter put in on 6-ft stretch of building; look elsewhere for help on tasks while he recuperates
 - Next B&G meeting on June 13

- **Worship and Music (C. Murphy)**
 - Bishop's visit went very well.
 - Prepared for Bishop's visit and what was needed for confirmation and baptism
 - Keeping ahead of COVID updates and adjusting as necessary
 - Coffee hour postponed unless it can take place outside. Ann will check with Jeff to locate Holy Spirit café tables and umbrellas.
 - Worship committee will check with hospitality about using gloves to serve food.

- **Communications (M. Pikrone)**
 - Updated business/welcome cards in Canva and distributed them for Sunday visitors
 - Discussed potential of printable seed cards for newcomers and new logo alternatives
 - Pride committee looking for official wording about openness to print on fans for September's Pride Booth; Mary Anne will provide wording
 - Ronya will work with Mary Anne to establish free Canva subscription and revise logo with Jeff's help

- **Welcome (M. Pikrone, N. Emmel Gunn)**
 - New couples attended this Sunday morning
 - Vestry announcements should come before any others

- **Finance (J. Eads)**
 - John Eads proposes quarterly reports from vestry committees with ad hoc updates and to create a schedule for rotating verbal monthly reports from committees. Brent Brower Toland motions to approve; John seconds and motion carries unanimously.
 - Looking for additional finance committee member
 - Finance will present bullet-point, big-picture items report to vestry every single month with verbal report to congregation the following Sunday, with the goal of staying accountable to vestry and faith community.
 - Budget request will be completed by July 15. Draft budget done by end of June with a request from diocese for \$40,000

- **Fundraising (A. Balsamo)**
 - Scheduling ragtime concert for late August or September; will reach out to ragtime musicians and community
 - Bingo committee will convene soon to coordinate second Bingo event in late August

- **Outreach (L. Clements, submitted via email)**
 - Pride Committee looking for ideas on how to engage festival-goers for September's Tower Grove Pride event. Ideas include an ecumenical "mass on the grass;" theme of participation; and provision of glitter ashes

- **Education (B. Brower-Toland)**
 - Restarting Godly Play; age minimum 5 years
 - Restarting childcare up to age 5

- **Budget (J. Eads)**
 - Written report submitted; expenditures on target for this time of year.
 - Line item “Other offerings” makes up difference in pledge income line item, and is attributed to the number of regularly attending people and/or newcomers who are not pledgers but make regular donations
 - Pledges at 37% at end of May but almost halfway through year
 - Rental income at 59%
 - Sexton may not have been billing church for B&G work; gas prices are up; we heat large space; otherwise everything is on track for the year
 - Vestry approved message for announcements on June 19.

- **Priest’s Update**
 - Bishop’s visit went well; will meet with Vestry September 27
 - St. John’s has received 10K capital improvement loan from diocese for roof repairs
 - Priest’s hours over 4 week period; 21 hours shortest-37 hours longest; average is 32
 - No deacon is available just yet;
 - Board discussed identifying 4 people from congregation who can be certified as lay preachers in order to assist with sermon needs 1 Sunday per month; diocese will vet candidates; discussion of hosting nonprofits to talk about missions v. sermons
 - Nancy will be absent two Sundays this summer and has already made arrangements for supply preachers
 - Audit in anticipation of grant will be done by July; the treasurer at St. Stephens and St. Barnabas is completing it for free

Loose Ends

Bishop wishes to speak with Vestry about building; meeting will take place in September

- Nancy will reach out to Ecumenical religious organization about renting space; John Eads proposes tabling further discussion until rental spaces can be assessed.

Reminder of Next Meeting Dates

Next meeting is Sunday, July 17; executive meeting Wednesday, July 13. Mary Ann Pikrone will represent vestry.

Closing Prayer (C. Murphy, poem)

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