

**St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove
Vestry Meeting Minutes, August 20, 2023 @ 12:07 p.m. in person**

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Brent Brower-Toland, Liam Clements, Jonathan Cureton, Ronya McCool, Correne Murphy.

Absent: Ann Balsamo; Mary Anne Pikrone; Margarita Tschomakoff. Correne will update absent vestry.

Opening Prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

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

Appreciations

- Mtipe Kogani for preaching
- Christine W, Reuben, Ronya, and others for weeding the entrance to the parish hall

Accept minutes from July

Correne motioned to approve; Jonathan seconded. Unanimous approval.

Checkin— Sundry voluntary reports on vestry members' well-being.

Committee Updates

- Buildings and Grounds - no real update; members on vacation**
 - Of note: there is an issue concerning cleaning vestibule
 - Waterproofing in hall did not work, and some plaster fell from behind stained glass.
 - Nancy will get copy of cleaning contract to Liam and Correne
- Worship (Correne)**
 - Worship team has been meeting for training every month.
 - Correne hopes to create a checklist of expectations for service preparation.
 - Efforts went toward preparing to host the Bishop on August 27.
- Financials for July 2023 (Nancy Emmel Gunn and Executive Committee)**
 - Income is what is expected at this time; pledge income is good at \$52,000
 - Most expenses are reasonable, but there is a significant deficit from June
 - Liam, Ronya, Correne and Nancy have been meeting to investigate some concerning expenses and have determined utilities are a major culprit, eg. the cost of gas has gone up post-Covid; Spire raised rates for everyone. Gas expenses are very high and we have spent much more than what was budgeted for the year.
 - Sensors for HVAC system have been located in the rafters, which may be the source of inaccurate temperature readings. We will look into moving them lower for a more accurate temperature reading; in 2022, the latter part of October was cool in sanctuary and tolerable everywhere else.

- Nancy notes that all St. John's has in savings is \$44,969—that's it.
 - Peace Meal = good; \$3,000 in bank.
 - We have received \$645 just from donations
- **Priest's Report – Nancy Emmel Gunn**
- New Ventures in Community Ministries Grant. Good news—we received \$18,000 to cooperatively hire a part-time youth minister for youth group!
 - Visit from Bishop August 27—all preparations have been made—Jonathan Cureton will be confirmed and Jeannie Lichtenwalner will be received; hospitality committee has prepared special coffee hour.
 - Organist/Music Director search—Not many applicants; vestry discussed other venues that Nancy and Correne could advertise or otherwise look for candidates for this position
 - MCU use of chapel—Correne and Nancy

Loose Ends

- Ronya will meet with Ann to prioritize unifying communications and committee updates
- Liam and Jonathan updated the group on St. John's involvement with Tower Grove Pride
- Ronya updated the group on October's Zee Bee Market sales fundraiser.
- Brent—Bishop to meet with vestry following coffee hour.

Reminder of Next Meeting Dates – Nancy Emmel Gunn

- a. *Next Vestry meeting: Sunday, September 17*
- b. *Executive Committee: September 13 at 7 pm via Zoom*
 - i. *Margarita Tschomakoff*

Closing Prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn