

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove
Vestry Meeting Minutes, September 18, 2022 @ 12 pm – in person

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

Opening prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

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

Appreciations

Dave Malek for preaching; Travis and Rodney coordinating return of Godly Play; Ann Balsamo helping to find nursery assistants

Accept minutes from July

Ann Balsamo moves to accept minutes with changes. Ann Quay Rushing seconds and minutes approved unanimously by vestry.

Requiem and Renaissance (J. Eads)

- Identifying community v. *perception* of community and how do we grow that
- What are strengths and needs of this community?
- How to begin conversations w/ congregation
- Pew Research report – by 2030, fewer than 50% of U.S. will identify as Christian but the tradition is more vibrant worldwide

Committee updates

- **Buildings and Grounds (M. Tschomakoff)**
 - New Sexton + maintenance 5-10 hours/week at most; possibility of co-op w/ other churches for maintenance and/or sexton
 - Cleaners every Wednesday; Travis mows and weeds; Christine waters plants
 - Parish Hall roof and other leak have been patched; accept bid to replace church roof?
 - Discussion of emergency response team, Rodney, Travis and Tony
 - Look into obtaining and updating carbon monoxide detectors
 - Rent raises – \$20/ month until December; beginning January 2023 another \$20/month
- **Worship and Music (C. Murphy)**
 - Meets 1st Wednesday of month
 - Communion concerns; distribution of wine; making homemade communion bread
 - Ushers and greeters/better use of whiteboard (relocate in sanctuary)
 - Review and refine Prayers of the People
 - Acolyte program – Cathedral training session
 - Preparations for Blessing of the Animals in October
 - Identified four congregants—Correne, Hannah, Travis and Rodney—to serve as lay preachers, which will give Rev. Nancy some Sundays off to do some community based work and develop preaching abilities of congregants
 - Update announcement rotation

- **Communications (M. Pikrone)**
 - Rena and Mary Anne working on new logo to present to the vestry in October
 - We continue to attract many newcomers

- **Finance (J. Eads)**
 - Still looking for finance committee members

- **Fundraising (A. Balsamo)**
 - Zeebee Market, October 18-20: 15% of sales between 11 am – 6 pm will go to St. John's – have someone there from church to work. Vestry discussed how to promote it and include our Welcome Neighbor partnership
 - Tracey working on finding concert time for Erin Bode
 - Working w/ S. Grand businesses for gift cards, etc for future Bingo night (early Nov.)

- **Outreach (L. Clements)**
 - Details on setup and promotion for Tower Grove Pride booth; glitter blessings at main booth; lemonade stand in front of church. Rev. Nancy and Bishop Deon will administer glitter blessings and participate as needed in Sunday's Mass on the Grass

- **Education (B. Brower-Toland)**
 - Restarting Godly Play and teen Sunday school classes to continue into the spring
 - Adult Education; virtual lectionary on Sunday mornings
 - How to improve attendance for potential adult classes in-person
 - Plans for Christian formation/confirmation class
 - Possibility of youth group; seek out leadership
 - Young Adult events

- **Hospitality (M. Pikrone, Rev. Nancy)**
 - Homecoming October 23rd – planning meeting

- **Budget (J. Eads)**
 - Pledges a little below but not catastrophic
 - Utilities will rise again as winter approaches
 - Continue to project that we will overcome budgeted deficit
 - Expenses at the expected 67% which is what is expected
 - Stewardship & Outreach – budget for next year

- **Priest's Update**
 - Bishop's visit with vestry, 6 pm September 27
 - ECC not moving forward w/ rental
 - Welcome Neighbor—meeting Thursday afternoon
 - Masking optional

Loose Ends

Need to set up a stewardship committee.
Outreach and stewardship to be included in 2023 budget
One-time security committee meeting

Reminder of Next Meeting Dates

Next meeting is Sunday, October 16; executive meeting Monday, October 10 at 7 pm. Ronya McCool will represent vestry.

Closing Prayer (Nancy Emmel-Gunn)

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