

St John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove
Vestry Meeting Minutes, September 17, 2023 @ 12.05 pm

Opening Prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

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

Vestry Members Present: Ann Balsamo, Brent Brower-Toland, Liam Clements, Jonathan Cureton, Ronya McCool, Correne Murphy, Mary Ann Pikrone, Margarita Tschomakoff

Appreciations—Music, Jeff Carter; Jamie Hutson for piano; Liam and Hannah for coordinating Peace Meal

Accept minutes from August

The vestry will table accepting the minutes pending changes from Reverend Nancy and Margarita. Ronya will update and resend minutes

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

Committee Updates

- Education (Brent) – Godly Play starting Sept. 23; YA starting Dec; 20+ is still a gap that has not been filled; families w/ younger kids have not all come back post-pandemic [+/-] so advertising will be key—Travis has been in touch w/ families to let them know ministries are restarting. Youth group opp could be really great; we do have professional child-care; utilize them/expand for choir practice.
- Communication –add child care to newsletter – is newsletter on Facebook? Should be able to share it—we welcome children! & put on website – musician for the day—Jamie Hutson
- Outreach – Liam and Jonathan
 - PeaceMeal—planning committee met last Sunday; everything is going well for now; but will need coordinators for 2024. Peace Meal coordinators are actively recruiting new coordinators and performing outreach to participating churches to provide volunteers by emphasizing commitment. The hope is also to build a supply of volunteers. St. John's youth group could also sign up for volunteering as an opportunity to complete service hours and opportunity to meet other teens. Vestry discussed how Peace Meal may engage with community and reconsider use of to-go products.
 - TG Pride –Booth setup will take place from 3-5 on Friday. Committee will meet afterward to wrap water bottles as giveaways. Rev. Nancy is looking for another person who can administer glitter blessings, and committee is in need of a truck to move 50 chairs to Grand & Arsenal for Mass on the Grass next Sunday.
 - Ministries Fair –tentative date for November 5 after services
- Stewardship & events
 - Stewardship will kick off on Sunday, October 29; Tony has lined up two speakers.

Financials for August, 2023 (Nancy Emmel Gunn and executive ad-hoc committee)

- Report from Executive Ad-Hoc budget team & upcoming presentation to congregation on October 1—inflation is partly the culprit here; we have a lean, frugal budget, and overages are tough.
- Some expenses were less during COVID; now we have double that.
- We have \$41,000 in the bank—transferred \$10-\$12K to cover expenses
- The vestry discussed asking the diocese for forgiveness of the remainder of the white loan
- We applied for \$50,000 from diocese; we will receive \$45,000 instead of \$42,000
- Vestry discussed increasing monthly rent for nonprofit, office, and apartment tenants and the need for an organizational chart and timelines for rentals.
- St. John's has replaced sump pump and absorbed expenses from any flooding. The vestry discussed engaging in a new lease conversation with Welcome Neighbor by end of year, and ask Anna to coordinate conversations about partnership. Brent proposed researching and documenting the unit price of gas and electric increases.
- Building insurance went up from \$14,000 to \$15,600 this year
- A/C not pushing out air in new choir room. Hoffmann checked rooftop unit and replacement of compressor is \$3,000 for 2024.

Priest's Report (Nancy Emmel Gunn)

- New Ventures in Community Ministries
 - Nancy submitted a grant application for \$18,000 to fund part-time youth minister for interdenominational youth group. We will be notified by October if selected; grant period begins in 2024
- Music Director Update
 - New director Joseph Eckelkamp will start next Sunday, September 24
 - Mary Anne will coordinate an introduction for the newsletter and church blog
- Renewal of Ministry service scheduled for Saturday, November 18 at 11 am
 - Nancy has been officially named as Rector of St. John's! Her Renewal of Ministry service will be officiated by the Bishop, to take place here.
 - Make sure to change Nancy's title in newsletter and bulletin (Mary Anne)
 - Nancy will send Bishop's letter to Liam and Mary Anne

Loose Ends

- Discussion of reformatting meeting agenda

Reminder of Next Meeting Dates

- Reschedule from October 15 due to Homecoming. Vestry will meet on October 22 at 12.05 pm; Brent will represent the vestry at the executive Zoom meeting, October 18 at 7 pm

Closing prayer, 1:50 pm

Committees

- Buildings and Grounds (Margarita, Rodney, Travis)
- Communications (Ann, Mary Anne, Margarita, Ronya, Jeff)
- Education (Brent, Travis, Rodney, Susan)
- Fundraising (Ann,)
- Outreach (Liam, Jonathan, Hannah)
- Peace Meal (Liam, Hannah)
- Requiem and Renaissance
- Stewardship (Tony, Nancy)
- Worship (Correne, Ann QR, Jonathan)

Lectorship

- Choir