

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove

Vestry Meeting Minutes for May 19, 2024 @ 12:17 PM

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Liam Clements, Correne Murphy, Ann Balsamo, Jeff Carter, Jonathan Cureton, Paul Freeman, Ronya McCool

Opening Prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

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

Appreciations – Jeff for filling in for music during worship; Jim Kerns on retiring from bookkeeping; how best to thank Judy for all that she does?

Accept minutes from April 2024 meeting

Mary Anne moves to accept with one grammatical change; Correne seconds. Minutes pass unanimously.

Vestry Checkins

Voluntary reports from various vestry members on respective spiritual and physical well-being

Resignation of Senior Warden

- Liam Clements announces his resignation as senior warden; Ronya McCool will move into this role effective today.
- Jeff Carter volunteers to take on role of vestry secretary, and he and Ann Balsamo will reformat the minutes to focus on accountability.

Followup from April Vestry workday

- Ronya and Nancy will meet about consolidating committees
- Reach out to congregation—anybody trained to take on small carpentry or repair jobs?

Committee Updates

- Building & Grounds (Mary Anne, Liam, Rev. Nancy)
 - No meeting. Keystone brick in entryway being replaced. Broken pew on back right of sanctuary. It is important that B&G meets regularly. Who performs baseline maintenance as part of roles? Can we schedule maintenance for building systems? What can be assigned to sexton? So far he has not billed us anything.
- Communications (Ronya)
 - Changes pending to website for June; Ronya will make announcement about calendar to congregation.
 - How do we put together an annual calendar for congregation? Where? Google calendar best? How do we bring in people to serve, whether on vestry or related service?
 - Vestry is the lifeblood of the church. Our infrastructure was loose before; but now we need to tighten that up. We're at a place where we are attracting new people and they need to know where they should be "plugged in."

- Outreach (Jonathan)
 - Pride has had fruitful number of meetings and workdays, creating pronoun pins for September's Pride in the Park celebration. St. John's will be an official water stop for the event which will boost our visibility and collaboration.
 - Two members will go to St. Louis Pride in June to celebrate with Cathedral and MCC.
 - Peace Meal (Liam). Next Saturday to host is June 8. Hannah made announcement about financing for new stove. Our donations will be matched by St. Mark's Presbyterian for cost of stove and installation.
 - Person2Person street ministry (Correne) is reshaping its mission and outreach functions, and may be able to contribute funds to stove.

Financials for April 2024

- Income at 30%; we should be at 33%; down just a little bit; pledge income at 30%; other offerings higher than we would have expected
- Expenses—Gas again is high; see line item 72010—77% of budgeted amount just through April. Thermostat wasn't working; it's possible that was part of the problem. • Deficit of \$8,604 minus Welcome Neighbor and no new renter.
- \$43,000 in the bank and no other income.
- Who is working on procuring rentals? Where are we marketing new tenant interests?

Priest's Reports

Joseph Jeffers' liability document—as a bookkeeper, not an accountant, he has provided a document to acknowledge he cannot be held to standards of CPA. Ann motioned to approve the vestry accept this document. Jonathan seconded, and this was unanimously approved by vestry.

Jeff has agreed to chair finance committee, with Ann Balsamo and possibly members of the community. Inform the community on a regular basis where we are financially.

Executive Session

At 1:24 pm vestry moved into executive session, with exception of Jeff Carter, to discuss personnel compensation. Ronya moves to return to regular session, seconded by Paul, and the vestry votes to return to regular session at 1:36 pm.

Action Items

- Mary Anne will meet with B&G to develop a maintenance schedule
- Mary Anne will meet with communications professional & report back • Ann and Ronya will meet to redesign church newsletter
- Jeff—finance committee and goals
- Nancy—meet with Gary to ask him to bill us for repairs done this year so far • Nancy will give Ann contact info to coordinate Pride Thanksgiving & use of kitchen. • Think about other active participants to fill vestry.
- Ronya will check with Bob for electronic version of parish directory
- Ronya and Jeff—vestry announcement collaboration w/ template from Jeff

Loose Ends

- Vestry discussed candidates for vestry in 2025 and to fill current positions. •
- Communication for financials and mid-year drive for donations

Reminder of Next Meeting Dates – Nancy Emmel Gunn

Vestry Announcement next Sunday, May 26: Nancy and Ronya; next Sunday, Nancy and Jeff scheduling a “vestry MC”

a. Next Vestry meeting: June 23

b. Executive Committee: June 19 Zoom 7pm

i. Additional Vestry member present: Jeff Carter

Closing Prayer, Nancy Emmel Gun

Meeting adjourns, 2:05 PM