

**St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove**  
**Vestry Meeting Minutes, July 16, 2022 @ 12.05 pm – in person**

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Ann Quay Rushing, Ann Balsamo, Liam Clements, Ronya McCool, Correne Murphy, Mary Ann Pikrone, Margarita Tschomakoff

Absent: Brent Brower-Toland, John Eads

Opening prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

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

**Appreciations**

Rodney and Will patching roof

Ann Quay hemming the covers for the communion tables

**Accept minutes from June**

Rev. Nancy proposes changes.

Ann Balsamo moves to accept minutes as written.

Correne Murphy seconds and minutes are approved by vestry; Liam abstains due to prior absence

**Requiem and Renaissance (M.A. Pikrone)**

- R & R is 18-month procedure that began in April
- Discussions of congregational life cycles
- Next meeting is Saturday July 23 (Zoom meeting with other congregations)
- Future of St. John's & understanding of details; R & R convention placed emphasis on merging.
- Financial report looks better & attendance is steady (C. Murphy); work on showing worth to community
- Upcoming meeting with Bishop on September 27

**Committee updates**

- **Buildings and Grounds (M. Tschomakoff)**
  - No official update from Rodney (on vacation)
  - 2 bids for roofing; working on 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Gutter repaired on E side that faces priest's office
  - Steel plate replaced on fellowship hall door
- **Worship and Music (C. Murphy)**
  - Met on July 6 via Zoom

- Prayers of the People regarding redundancy and length of time; input from congregation
  - Established subcommittee to address flowers and plants (H. Harkey)
  - Communion stations set up
  - Next meeting Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>; guests welcome
  - L. Clements & N. Emmel Gunn - Diocesan safety plan during worship and plans to follow in case of emergency event; greeter should sit in the back; seek out guidance from Diocese on handling mental health emergencies
- **Communications (M. Pikrone)**
    - Margarita took wonderful new photo of church to use on PR
    - Ronya and Mary Anne will work on Canva
    - A. Balsamo asks to include Episcopal branding
    - R. McCool will contact Janice G. in regards to Diocesan brand manual
    - M. Tschmakoff suggests approaching design team from 2018 congregational directory and incorporating stained Glass in vestibule as part of logo
- **Welcome (M. Pikrone, N. Emmel Gunn)**
    - Visitors are filling out the welcome cards and Nancy is following up with them
    - Two new people also volunteered at Peace Meal
- **Finance (A. Balsamo)**
    - Things are in good shape
    - A. Balsamo, A. Quay Rushing and Rev. Nancy will prepare snapshot presentation of financing for Sunday, July 24
    - Possibility of using Venmo or PayPal – consider 3% fees that go to these services but not the church and decide by August
    - Paypal offers reduced transaction fees for nonprofits – down to 2.2%
    - What amount is coming through electronic sources and should we budget for that in next year’s budget?
    - Letters to congregants—does that exclude the 3% and then people write checks?
- **Fundraising (A. Balsamo)**
    - Ragtime concert has stalled out; looking for other ideas
    - Bingo in fall; guidelines from Diocese on holding gatherings and current events; Rev. Nancy will reach out to Maria Evans at Diocese
- **Outreach (L. Clements, submitted via email)**
    - Pride Committee – Logo design submitted; Mass on the Grass with Rev. Nancy, Bishop Deon, and John Stratton; tee-shirt fundraiser
    - No line item in budget this year
    - Vestry voted on T-shirt design, Liam 1<sup>st</sup>; Mary Anne 2<sup>nd</sup>; with design orientated vertically
- **Education (B. Brower-Toland)**

- No report; given current guidelines the original plan to open up Godly Play in the fall may be on hold
  - No line item for babysitting (Rev. Nancy)
  - Require masks indoors; vaccines have been approved for 6 mos old—we need some kind of kids’ service before we lose families of congregants
  - Homecoming event planning for fall picnic (October); spot reserved and paid
- **Budget (N. Emmel Gunn for J. Eads)**
    - Income at 50% at 6 month mark: good!
    - Pledges are a tiny bit down
    - Other offerings – visitors and new people who don’t pledge but make donations
    - We budgeted for \$6000 and we are already at \$8200
    - 47% total expenses; in the red by \$2,482, but with deficit that is good
    - We are not in as bad as a spot as we might be and we submitted a balanced budget for 2023
    - Assessment of rental spaces still on the agenda – square footage & amenities writeup done and one assessment done last week and will have new numbers by August
- **Priest’s Update**
    - Bishop meeting with vestry, Tuesday, September 27; live and in person, Audit in anticipation of grant will be done by July; the treasurer at St. Stephens and St. Barnabas is completing it for free
    - Grant application for \$45,000 in Diocesan support submitted along with proposed 2023 Budget.
    - Not applying for special grant for new projects this year; look for new outreach opportunities next year that grant money would help us start a service or offering, or collaborate on partnership; A. Balsamo will reach out to Welcome Neighbor
    - Discussion of increasing discretionary fund for community; possibility of another church or churches donating to our discretionary fund as outreach
    - Nancy reached out to Ecumenical Catholic Communion about renting sanctuary; the organization is very interested in St. John’s as a city church w/ service opportunities; perhaps office space is available; Their services are on Saturday evenings. Nancy understands that they are currently renting at \$1000/mo.

**Loose Ends**

- Scale back on bulletin printing? Should have no more than 40.
- Secretary needed for next meeting (August 21) unless we decide to move the meeting

**Reminder of Next Meeting Dates**

Next meeting is Sunday, August 21 at 11.45 am; executive meeting Wednesday, August 17; Liam Clements will represent vestry.

**Closing Prayer (N. Emmel Gunn)**