

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove

Vestry Meeting Minutes for November 17, 2024 @ 12:05 PM

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Ronya McCool, Correne Murphy, Mary Anne Pikrone, Paul Freeman, Jeffrey Carter, Ann Balsamo, Dawn Indelicato-Faw, Jonathan Cureton

Meeting commenced at 12:20 P.M.

A quorum was declared.

Appreciations to those speaking in November about stewardship.

Vestry approved September 2024 meeting minutes and October 2024 meeting minutes.

Finance.

Vestry received October 31, 2024 budget close.

In preparation for finance forums in Advent, this information was highlighted:

- Jan - Oct year to date, pledge income is 86% against an expected 83%
- Gross revenue appears high because of flow-through grants, and full distribution of sequestered funds for youth director
- Building and property expenses are running at 86% v expected 83%
- Total expenses are essentially at 100% of year at the 10-month mark
- Oct 31 cash on hand is \$46K, but \$16K of that is sequestered for youth group
- Savings is only \$25K at the end of October.
- 10/31 total current liabilities (bills, deposits from renter, discretionary funds) is \$4230, PLUS the White Loan of over \$64K
- We have dipped into savings \$17K since first of year
- We only have \$25K left in savings
- We are going after every grant we possibly can. The stove was paid for in advance. The AC fix and electric fix were paid by diocesan grant.
- We are living as we promised we would live, but we lost a renter this year in January, so rental income is at 70% v expected 83%
- Why did we dip into savings? Diocesan apportionment jumped up, and lost rental income are primary drivers
- Current financials show no malfeasance
- We expected a deficit budget, in faith
- And here we are.
- There is nothing to cut. Budget is barebones.
- Pledge income is THE huge variable.

- We ARE engaged! +/-Sixty peace meals weekly. Pride is coming in and using the building. 10-12 gift cards a month. Almost 200 people come through our doors for 12-step groups every week. We are a witness and a haven in this neighborhood!
- We truly need your pledges in December. This is urgent. This is an existential pinch point.

Vestry voted (Dawn/Jeff) to authorize Rev. Nancy to initiate, at her discretion, an on-line giving agreement with Continuetogive.com, the platform suggested by our bookkeeper.

Building and Grounds.

Building and Grounds will initiate a review of the potential of empty rental property connected to the church.

Priest's report.

- Rev. Nancy has instituted financial accounting systems with staff and volunteers.
- Rev. Nancy requests that 2025 have a financial management team driving the discussion and review of reports.
- We expect a deacon to be placed with us in December.
- Rev. Nancy requests Vestry review at PB Curry's "the way of love." <https://www.forwardmovement.org/Pages/Item/10742/the-way-of-love> And <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/>.

Action items.

- Building and grounds to evaluate empty rental property. (Mary Anne)
- Empanel a finance team. (Ronya, Jeff)
- Put LOVE GOD, LOVE EACH OTHER, SERVE THE NEIGHBORHOOD on the wall in parish hall. And in the front yard. (Jonathan)
- Appreciation notes for stewardship (Rev. Nancy/Ronya?)
- Prepare bullet points for Vestry report to congregation (Jeff)
- Safe Church certification completions to Paul

In the next weeks:

Welcome:

11/24 – Correne (include Vestry report)

12/1 – Jeff (include Vestry report)

12/8 – Jonathan

12/15 – Ronya

12/22 – Paul

12/29 – Jeff

Next meetings:

Tuesday, 12/10 at 7 PM on Zoom: Executive committee, with Dawn to join

Sunday, 12/15 at 12.05 PM: Vestry in person

Adjourned at 1.30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Carter, recording scribe