

**St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove**  
**Vestry Meeting Minutes, May 21, 2023 @ 12:05 pm – in person**

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Liam Clements, Brent Brower-Toland, Matthew Green, 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 and Vestry Members

**Appreciations** – None this month

**Accept minutes from April**

C. Murphy motioned to approve; A. Balsamo seconded. Unanimous approval.

**Requiem and Renaissance**

Matthew will update Rev. Canon Whitney Rice on our decision, and based on that, may have a meeting in June in addition to the next scheduled R&R committee meeting on July 14-15. M. Pikrone said it appeared that the congregational feedback we asked for gave no surprises.

**Committee updates**

- **Buildings and Grounds (M. Tschomakoff, email update)**
  - Sexton is still getting bids for sanctuary plaster work for Vestry decision.
  - Someone has requested we not use a brick to prop open the Parish Hall door. Murphy noted we have a chain to hold it open.
  - Sexton replaced lightbulb over the entry to the Wainwright Building and the second floor. The floodlight is now working.
  - Sexton and Malone put a temporary sump pump in basement, then a permanent one.
  - The stained glass window is now repaired.
  - One of the apartment renters is moving out. Another is acquiring a roommate. That person passed application, will sign a new lease. We should have a new conversation for the next rent increase.
  - Vestry discussed the Welcome Neighbors basement lease. Allyce Bullock is taking on the task. WN has had no lease since 2020. Rev. Nancy said we replaced the sump pump in the basement and are in the process of redoing their lease to present to them in June.
  - Pikrone said renovation work has been done on the janitor's closet.
  
- **Worship and Music (C. Murphy)**
  - Plans are in place for celebrating Pentecost; we are approaching ordinary time.
  
- **Welcome (M. Pikrone, N. Emmel Gunn)**
  - Newcomer's dessert was a success; well-attended by vestry with the majority of our newcomers in attendance.

- **Finance (N. Emmel Gunn)**
  - Actual income is \$74,000 with 30% of budget on track. Running expenses at less than budget but this is offset by building expenses
  - Gas still high--\$3900 projected but we've already spent \$9600 despite attempts to find an underlying issue. Keith will be our liaison to help track heating expenses. While the blower was just repaired, we will not know until November if that worked.
  - Everything else in the budget is in line with expectations. Deficit is directly attributable to building.
  - We have received one bid for plaster work; vestry would like two more for a decision.
  - Nancy applied for a diocesan grant, but there are sixteen applicants for \$54,000 available funds—so we may not count on being granted any.
  - Pledge income is where it is expected for this point in time.
  - Correne and Nancy will volunteer for committee based on Time, Talent and Treasure ahead of November.
  
- **Fundraising/Stewardship (A. Balsamo, M. Green)**
  - Green said he and Ann Balsamo have been drafting a fundraising calendar for 23-24, working on some playbooks to make it easier to hold future events.
  - The quintet event was our most recent event. Rev. Nancy said we should make about \$600 from it because an anonymous donor paid the musicians; otherwise we would have lost money.
  - Rev. Nancy is reaching out to Brown Paper Tickets to collect the money from this event and the March Sondheim concert.
  - Rev. Nancy encouraged reaching out to the congregation and forming a fundraising committee by the fall and will hold some one-on-one meetings with members of St. John's for discernment.
  - Ann said we need a full organizational calendar so we can promote the next event at the current one, and that a calendar should include the Hospitality Chair.
  
- **Priest's Update**
  - Collaborations with other congregations have been fruitful; first community listening event was beneficial; we knock on doors, introduce ourselves and just check in with people—meet them as neighbors. Too early to be sure of any impact or yield but

### **Loose Ends**

June 2 – Diocesan gun violence vigil in Tower Grove Park; June 10 – Diocesan softball championship; June 11—Community listening for St. John's

### **Reminder of Next Meeting Dates**

- Next meeting is Sunday, June 25, 2023; executive meeting June 21.

### **Closing Prayer (Nancy Emmel Gunn)**

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