

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

## MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING MARCH 16, 2023

The March Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Fr. Ian Williams, our Curate. Those attending included: Senior Warden, John Barker, Junior Warden, Will Rodriguez, Clint Adams, Elizabeth Christenbury, Patrice German, E. R. Haire, Jerry Holt, Laura Meherg Teel, Marisa Pharr, Kim Sanders, and Jennifer Shelton. Absent were Fr. Josh Stephens and Lynn Wiescholek.

Fr. Ian opened the meeting with a Vestry member check-in. Afterward, Patrice led a devotion by reading excerpts on 'faith keepers' written by Maria Shriver.

**Acceptance of Consent Agenda for March:** Will made a motion to accept all committee reports as well as the minutes of the February Vestry meeting; the motion was seconded by Clint, and it was passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom reported both operating expenses and income are on target for the year. Currently, our operating income exceeds expenses; however prepaid pledges at the beginning of the year tend to skew the total picture. Tom states that operating expenses continue to be in line with the current budget.

Elizabeth made a motion to accept the March Treasurer's Report; Clint seconded the motion, and it was passed.

**Rector's Report:** Due to Fr. Josh's absence, Fr. Ian highlighted the following:

- Establishing a relationship with Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Church. Fr. Josh and his family, along with others from the parish, will be attending a fellowship lunch at the church.
- Outlined AV system for the church. Several options, which include a rolling cart, were discussed. More information, along with estimated costs, will be discussed at the next meeting. Everyone agreed on upholding the sacredness of the sanctuary and the desire to honor the historical space rather than attempting to alter it.

### **Updates: Strengthening the Ministries of St. John**

Group 1: Will reported that with Sarah's help, the group has compiled a list of parish committees. One goal is to communicate the church's mission to the ministries and members of each committee. Group 1 has discussed using surveys and having more joint services as ways to connect people to ministries. Elizabeth is scheduling a meeting with committee chairs to begin communication. The group is also working on establishing an 'appointments' committee.

Group 2: John outlined tasks and goals for this group. Jerry and Laura discussed the creation of a survey that contains 18 questions. The group which is tasked with

categorizing the questions as they relate to our ministries, is also developing an Introductory letter to go with the survey. Tom, who discussed 'appointments', is drafting a purpose and description alongside the formation of the committee

**Senior Warden's Report** – Before beginning his report, John urged Vestry members to read/reread the By-Laws. Will stressed the importance of being knowledgeable of the By-Laws as they are founded in the Canons of the Diocese

John reported that he has been in discussions with administrators from the Blue Ridge Fire Department who have undertaken an initiative to inspect and review local churches so that in the event of a fire they will have a pre-developed plan that will allow their responders to have a better knowledge of the layout and features of the church. This includes gaining entrance, negotiating locks, knowing where the electrical box is located, the location of important/valuable items, and other key information that would allow for a quicker, better-planned response to put out a fire and/or deal with other emergencies.

In addition to his regular monthly meetings and other responsibilities including working with the Church Insurance Company, John stated that he has met with Group Two of "Strengthening the Ministries of St. John".

**Junior Warden's Report** – Will reported that the Hemlock Tree located between the Parish Hall and the Wilderness Room was taken down on 12 January 2023. In addition, the double sink on the right-hand side of the Parish Hall Kitchen was replaced with a deeper single sink. Will also reported that he is developing a plan for repainting the Education Building using parish volunteers. Kevin will prepare the walls and purchase the paint. Recently the furnace in the parsonage has stopped working and must be replaced. John made a motion to approve the new furnace; Clint seconded the motion, and it was passed. As a final note, Will discussed plans to build a shed for the golf cart and storage for Kevin's tools. The new shed will be located closer to the Parish Hall and will have a concrete slab. Patrice made a motion to approve the building of the shed, Kim seconded the motion, and it was passed.

**Curate's Report** – Fr. Ian reported that he continues to work with Lynn and Mary Anne Inglis to develop Sunday School curriculums for the elementary and middle/high school age classes using the Episcopal Church's "Lesson Plans that Work" Curriculum. In addition to coordinating nursery care and doing pastoral visits, he has attended various parish meetings. Fr. Ian continues to alternate officiating, preaching, and other duties; he also recently participated in Bowl for Kids' Sake', a Holy Hike, the Young Family Ministry Ski Trip, continuing education, Clergy Lenten Retreat, and taught a Lenten formation series on the Sabbath.

Following a prayer, the March Vestry meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker  
Clerk of the Vestry