

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

The September Vestry meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Fr. Ian Williams, our Curate. Those attending included: Senior Warden, John Barker, Junior Warden, Will Rodriguez, Clint Adams, Elizabeth Christenbury, E.R. Haire, Jerry Holt, Marisa Pharr, Kim Sanders, Jennifer Shelton, and Laura Meherg Teel. Absent were Fr. Josh Stephens and Patrice German.

Fr. Ian welcomed everyone. Then he introduced Todd Oldenburg, a representative from Corliss and Solomon PLLC.

Financial Review: Todd presented the results of the Financial Review of St. John in the Wilderness 2022 records. The following financial statements were reviewed: assets, liabilities, and net assets – modified cash basis as of December 31, 2022; statements of support, expenses, and change in net assets; functional expenses; and cash activities for the year that ended. This review applied analytical procedures to financial data and made inquiries about management to form an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Based on this review, the group stated they were not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements for them to be in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. Tom stated that The Finance Committee received and reviewed the 2022 Financial Review prepared by Corliss and Solomon PLLC and recommended it for the Vestry's acceptance. Clint made a motion to accept the report; Will seconded and it was passed.

Fr. Ian continued the meeting with a Vestry member check-in. John led the devotion with a prayer for guidance.

Acceptance of Consent Agenda for September: Clint made a motion to accept all committee reports as well as the minutes of the August Vestry meeting; John seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported that with 67% of the year elapsed, Operating Income continues to exceed Expenses. Based on projections and trends, a surplus is expected. Comparing this year to 2022, the church is doing well.

Work is continuing on the proposed 2024 Budget. Recommendations for expenses have been received from Building & Grounds, Music, Worship, Christian Life, and Outreach. In addition, the Finance Committee reviewed the August 2023 Forecast, Operating Income and Expenses, Balance Sheet, and Consolidated Fund Activity. The committee also discussed reactivating an account formerly called Trust B. The Finance Committee made a proposal to the Vestry for reactivation and funding of the Trust. Discussion of Trust B will continue at a later date.

E.R. Haire made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; it was seconded by Clint. and was passed by members of the Vestry.

Curate's Report – Fr. Ian stated that our Appointments Committee now has five members including Jerry Holt, Patrice German, Elizabeth Christenbury, Debby Staton, and Carol Rector. This committee will be conducting a survey connecting interested parishioners to ministries at St. John. An article outlining the new Spiritual Gifts Inventory will be in the October *Voice*.

Fr. Ian reminded the Vestry that the church will be assisting with our diocesan convention in November. We are hosting Rev. Becca Stevens, the keynote speaker, whose ministry includes transforming women's lives who have suffered from addiction and abuse. She will be speaking on Thursday night and Friday morning.

Fr. Ian also reported that the new A/V system is being installed in the left back pew of the church. More information regarding operating the new system will be forthcoming.

Committee Reports

Stewardship: Reporting on behalf of the Stewardship Committee and the theme for 2024 'Growing by Sharing God's Gifts', Clint stated that sixty-eight pledges have been received to date. The Stewardship Committee's target for 2024 is 175 pledges. An 'ingathering event' is planned for October 15 at Kanuga Conference Center

New Business

E.R. Haire reported that he has completed his internship at St. Phillips Episcopal Church in Brevard this summer as part of his journey of discernment toward the postulancy. The Commission on Ministry has invited him to attend his second retreat in October. Members of the Vestry signed a Letter of Support for Candidacy certifying that E.R. is a communicant in good standing of the congregation of St. John in the Wilderness. The Vestry supports E.R. for Candidacy and believes that he possesses qualifications that would be fitting for admission as a Candidate for Holy Orders.

Following a prayer, the September 21 Vestry meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker
Clerk of the Vestry