

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING February 16, 2023

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

Fr. Josh opened the meeting with a Vestry member check-in. Afterward, Marisa led a devotion discussing 'little things that can make a big difference' quoting scripture from the Gospel of Luke followed by a prayer.

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

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported both operating expenses and income were on target for the year. He also noted that a correction in the Treasurer's Report as of December 2022 has been made due to an income item that had been incorrectly entered. Tom also stated that he will be in contact with Corliss Soloman who will conduct the 2022 simple review of church financial accounting. Tom concluded by reporting that the 2022 Parochial Report has been completed and will be submitted upon the Vestry's approval. E. R. made a motion to accept the February Treasurer's Report; Clint seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Rector's Report: Fr. Josh discussed security measures that will be implemented to ensure the safety of everyone while at St. John in the Wilderness. In addition, he provided an update on the Audio-Visual upgrade for the church. Several options and estimates were discussed but more information will be collected before a final decision is made. Further, Fr. Josh announced our 2023 Summer Scholar, Dr. Phil Kennison, Professor of Theology and Philosophy from Milligan College, will be at St. John in the Wilderness during the month of June. Concluding, Fr. Josh discussed the 2022 Parochial Report. E. R. made a motion to approve the Parochial Report; Patrice seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Updates: Strengthening the Ministries of St. John

Group 1: In Will's absence, Clint reported updates for Group 1A. After discussions with Fr. Steve Askew and Cannon Augusta regarding strengthening our ministries, it was clarified that 'standing committees' are permanent committees tasked with performing the business functions of the Parish. Further, standing committees 'enable' the other

ministries of the church. The other ministries are tasked with performing outreach and internal functions of the Parish related to the mission and services of the church. Working together, the Rector and the Vestry can help to ensure that the committees and ministries are headed in the same direction regarding the mission and the vision of the Parish. According to Canon Augusta, our Vision and Mission should provide "cohesiveness" for all our ministries.

Reporting for Group 1B, Elizabeth discussed obtaining information about our current ministries. This information will include the mission of the ministry, how the ministry serves the mission of our church, the current structure of the ministry, how new participants learn about the ministry, and how people share in the ministry. A list of current ministry and ministry leaders has been gathered. The group decided to host a luncheon to honor ministry heads and to share with them our goals for this year. After the luncheon, a survey will be used to collect the desired information.

Group 2 Report: John began by reviewing the group goals - 'Connecting God's People to God's Purpose'. The group has discussed ways to get information and feedback from parishioners regarding interests (and skills) in our many ministries and how to best connect the two. In addition to the development of a database of members and their interests/skills, other deliverables included the need to be able to effectively extract information from the survey instrument we use, the rules of an Appointments Committee, a plan for sustainability and ongoing updating of survey information, and the enhancement of communication regarding ministries/committees to our parish membership.

Laura discussed identifying spiritual gifts. By reviewing surveys and consulting with other Episcopal churches, she is locating possible resources. She discussed the feasibility of using the data from the Time and Talent Survey conducted several years ago as well as developing a new instrument to collect data. She will collaborate with Sarah and then develop a survey possibly using Google docs.

Tom discussed the concepts concerning the Appointment Committee. This committee will collect information from surveys and maintain a database. The information will be used to match skills and talents to possible individuals to fill vacancies in various committees.

Senior Warden's Report - John reported he has been attending finance, executive, and planning meetings in addition to meeting with members of Group 2.

Curate's Report – Fr. Ian continues to work with Lynn and Mary Anne Inglis to develop Sunday School curricula for the elementary and middle/high school age classes. They are using the Episcopal Church's "Lesson Plans that Work" Curriculum and will continue to do so through Epiphany. In addition, he coordinates nursery care and attends meetings with many ministries and committees, as well as other duties associated with his Curacy. Fr. Ian also discussed the Education for Ministry Program (EfM), a seminary-style online program for adult Christian Formation. This year-long program is

offered by The University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, and sponsored by the Diocese of Western North Carolina.

Old Business

Clint provided an update on the 2023 Stewardship Campaign. As of February 2, 2023, 169 of 170 total pledges have been received which represents a 99.4% participation rate.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker
Clerk of the Vestry