

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING MAY 25, 2023

The May 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, Junior Warden, Will Rodriguez, Clint Adams, Elizabeth Christenbury, Patrice German, E. R. Haire, Jerry Holt, and Laura Meherg Teel. Absent were Marisa Pharr, Kim Sanders, Jennifer Shelton, and Lynn Wiescholek.

After Fr. Josh welcomed everyone, Jerry led a devotion entitled 'Why We Lose Our Peace.' Following the devotion, Fr. Josh led a Vestry member check-in.

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

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported that with one-third of the year elapsed, our Operating Income exceeds our Operating Expenses by \$64,413 for Year-to-Date. Total Operating Expenses are below Budget at 31%. He also noted that all Operating Expenses are within the annual budget.

Tom is scheduled to meet with Ned Curtis and Stacy to study the classification of operation expenses and reimbursements to clarify and refine policies regarding these two areas. Further, with the Finance Committee's approval, the Financial Procedures Manual has been updated/revised to provide clarity regarding Endowment Requests for Withdrawal or Transfer of Funds, Payroll processing, and End of Year Transactions. Will made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as well as the Revised Procedures Manual; E. R. and Clint seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Rector's Report: Fr. Josh discussed important dates and upcoming events in our parish.

- The Summer Scholar Program with Dr. Phil Kenneson will begin Sunday, May 28 during Christian Formation. Meetings on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings will continue in June. More information can be found at <https://www.stjohnflatrock.org/summer-scholar>
- Fr. Josh announced that two different vendors for the new AV System for the church are being considered. Representatives from both companies will present information to the Vestry before a decision is made.
- Important Dates to add to the church calendar include the following:
 - June 12-16: Wild Wonder: Creation Care Camp for Kids
 - June 25: The Feast of St. John will be celebrated with a special worship service in the morning and a concert at Hubba Hubba in Flat Rock from 5:00-8:00 pm.

- August 13: Empty Bowls
- August 27: End of Summer Service in the Parish Hall will be held at 11:00
- October 15: Fall Fellowship Festival at Kanuga Conference Center with a service at 11:00 am followed by a cook-out
- Oct. 22-25: Holy Hikes of Western North Carolina Retreat at Valle Crucis

Fr. Josh discussed the Vestry's mission of Strengthening the Ministries of St. John. Goals from Groups 1 and 2 were reviewed and progress was noted. Members from each group provided current updates and upcoming plans. More information will be forthcoming as both groups continue to meet.

Senior Warden's Report: John reported that in the past two months, he has participated in the following:

- Attended April and May Executive Council Meetings
- Attended April and May Finance Committee Meetings
- Attended April and May Group 2 Meetings
- Represented St. John at a joint Potluck lunch at Mud Creek Missionary Baptist Church with Fr. Josh and Debby Staton
- Attended luncheon with Bishop Jose on April 30
- Discussed proposed changes to Bylaws with Jim Olsen, Chair, Bylaws, Canons, and Insurance Committee

Junior Warden's Report: Will reported that he is continuing to work with Randy McFall to survey, grade, and lay concrete in preparation for installing the new storage shed. He is also working with Kevin to install new lighting.

In addition, Will discussed updating the phone and internet services in both the main church and obtaining quotes from various providers. After assessing any additional needs for the new AV system to be installed in the church, a decision will be made.

Continuing, Will discussed a recommendation that had been made to change the terms 'Nominating Committee' to 'Appointments Committee' as a revision of the Vestry Bylaws. John consulted Jim Olson, the chair of the By-Laws, Canons, and Insurance Standing Committee, who gave his approval. The purpose and membership of the Appointments Committee were explained and discussed.

Will make a motion to approve changes to the Vestry Bylaws to include the formation of a new appointments committee which replaces the former nominations committee; Clint seconded the motion, and it was passed. The Appointments Committee will be comprised of three Vestry Members and two lay members. Elizabeth and Jerry volunteered to fill two of the slots for the Vestry. Other members will be announced later.

Curate's Report – Fr. Ian reported that he continues to work with 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". He discussed a new model of teaching using different people/couples/families who are willing to teach in three-week blocks of time. Materials and curriculum will be provided. He has also helped with planning Wild Wonder Creation Care Camp.

Fr. Ian continues to coordinate nursery care, make pastoral visits and calls, and attend meetings with various groups and committees including Vestry, Christian Formation, Garden Club, Group 2, Outreach, Fresh Start, and participate in Holy Hikes. In addition, he continues to participate in teaching during formation and in the coordination of special events, while rotating officiating, preaching, and other services each week.

Following a prayer, the May 25 Vestry meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker
Clerk of the Vestry