

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

OCTOBER 24, 2024

The October Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Fr. Josh Stephens. Those attending included: Curate, Fr. Ian Williams, Senior Warden, Jerry Holt, Junior Warden, Will Rodriguez, Clint Adams, Jon Fitzpatrick, Patrice German, Jim Gibbs, E.R. Haire, Marisa Pharr, Kim Sanders, and Sandy Skelton. Absent were Jill Owen and Laura Teel.

Jon led the opening devotion by reading a passage from Matthew 9:13 and sharing his reflections. A Vestry member check-in with prayer requests followed the devotion.

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

Treasurer's Report: Tom presented the results of the Final Audit Report for 2023 that was completed by Corliss & Soloman. The audit had no recommended material changes to the 2023 financial records. Tom requested that the Vestry approve the Audit Report and authorize its submission to the Diocese. E.R. made a motion to approve the 2023 Audit Report and authorize its submission to the Diocese. Sandy seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Tom and Fr. Josh highlighted a summary of St. John in the Wilderness's Hurricane Helene efforts. To date, donations of more than \$46,000 have been received. With 75% of the year elapsed, we are within the ranges established by the 2024 budget. Although our Total Operations Income and Operations Expenses are in line with the budget, some of the current Operations Expenses and transfers from our Operations Income have resulted in a deficit. Endowment Trustees have approved the distribution of \$36,466 from the Endowment which will cover the deficit. Based on a discussion of the deficits, Tom asked Vestry members to authorize the transfer of \$36,000 from the Endowment Fund to the General Operations Fund. Will made a motion to authorize the transfer from the Wells Fargo account to General Operations. Clint seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Patrice made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Clint seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Rector's Report: Fr. Josh discussed delegates for the upcoming Diocesan Convention. He made a motion to approve Don and Lynne Stine as delegates and David and Cathy Burge as alternates. E. R. seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Junior Warden's Report: In his report, Will provided an update on the insurance claim with the Church Insurance Company of Vermont. The insurance company has approved repairing the wrought iron fencing along the parking lot and Greenville Highway, the church fencing by the carriage entrance, and the fencing around James Brown's grave. This project, which will take approximately three months, will be completed by Robert Blackwood of High Cotton Iron for approximately \$10,900. Cutting and removing fallen trees will be completed by Epperson and Aguilar Tree Services with a total cost of \$5,000. Estimates for repairs to the church gutters, roof, fascia, and cracks inside the carriage entrance have not been received.

Senior Warden's Report: Jerry made a motion for the Vestry to go into Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. Will seconded the motion. The Executive Session ended at 6:57 p.m.

Old Business:

In his continuing discernment and journey to priesthood, E. R. Haire, who has been a postulant, is seeking Candidacy in preparation for ordination. Clint made a motion to support his Candidacy; Patrice seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the vestry. The Vestry signed a Letter of Support for Candidacy for E.R.

Following a closing prayer led by Fr. Josh, the October Vestry meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker
Secretary of the Vestry