

# THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

## MINUTES OF THE VESTRY RETREAT JUNE 22, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 am by Fr. Bill McCleery. Attending were Fr. Bill, Margaret Barker, Cynthia Easterling, Janet Johnson, Susan MacDonald, Greg Newbold, Carol Rector, Shelley Schiro, Debby Staton, and Jerry Tanner. Greg gave the devotional. **Susan made a Motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2019 Vestry Meeting, seconded by Janet and it was passed.**

In Jodi's absence, Carol gave the Finance and Treasurer's Report (see attached) specifically pointing out there was an Outreach boost from the Sheffer endowment and the Outreach Committee will meet to determine distribution of funds. Carol said Balance Sheet and Income Statement were straightforward with comments on back of page 4. Also, Bill Farrell (Linda Sokalski's husband) will perform the internal audit. **Debby made a motion to approve the May financial statements, pending audit, seconded by Margaret and it was passed.**

Fr. Bill, reporting for Jim Olson, reviewed the final version of the Bylaws (see attached) with a few changes. First, the legal name of the church is The Church of St. John in the Wilderness and should be used on all legal documents. It is noted that the Diocese prefers the word Episcopal be included. In reference to Article III, Section 4, just to clarify, although this is not listed, the Executive Committee (Fr. Bill, Carol, Jerry and Jodi) shall put together a list of the nominating committee for Vestry's approval at the July meeting. During July and August, the nominating committee will compose a list of candidates and submit the list to the Vestry at the September meeting for approval. There was much discussion on the number of nominees, additional criteria required, etc. Carol felt strongly the nominating committee needed to further the discussion once they convene. All felt a sentence stating "When nominating committee submits list of possible candidates to Vestry, they have not yet been contacted to see if they agree to serve. Candidates will be contacted once list is approved by Vestry." Fr. Bill requested Susan propose language to be added (to Article III, Section IV) and submit to Jim Olson for addition to Bylaws. Carol said we can vote via email should the need be required.

In Article VIII, Section 1 of Bylaws, Susan suggested there be semicolons placed between committee names to provide clarity. All agreed. In Article VI, Section 4, Parish Treasurer and Fr. Bill stated we are not currently in compliance with the policy which states, "Deposits to and withdrawals from Parish accounts shall be prepared by a person who is someone other than the person who reconciles the bank statements from Parish accounts". Carol mentioned that Jodi plans to discuss with Diocese when she returns from vacation. Fr. Bill noted Appendix B and C are new. There are two typos in Appendix C; first paragraph, third line, insert "been" after the word "have". In number 4, next to last sentence, insert "of" instead of "or".

For Stewardship, in Michael's absence, Fr. Bill reports Time and Talent Survey is on the website and as people express interest, the Chair of the interest group will be notified. In addition, Ken Jones and Albert Gooch have proposed establishing a Legacy Society consisting of parish members who have listed SJITW in their estate planning. A steering committee will be formed to establish further planning. The Parish picnic is scheduled for September 14 at Camp Falling Creek, with a Mission & Ministry Fair on September 15 in the Parish Hall.

For Buildings & Grounds, Jerry reported (attached) on the removal of the disintegrated doors at the bell tower entrance. Bill Walker and Nelson Motes offered to build new doors from old wood, replace all screws, hinges, etc. and rehang, hopefully within 2 weeks, at no expense to the church. Regarding the estimate dated June 10, 2019, from Epperson's Lawn & Tree Care for \$6750.00 (attached), Jerry reported details and requested it be approved. **Margaret made a Motion to approve the estimate of \$6750.00 from Epperson's Lawn & Tree Care for tree removal, it was seconded by Shelley, and was passed.** Jerry stated the Hemlock treatment needs to be done in cooler weather on approximately 201 trees and should cost \$4020.00. He recommended annual treatments. He also said there will be cart driver training, the Garden Guild is working on the shade garden, the maintenance crew has started to repair pew latches and kneelers, and the Safety Committee, consisting of Shelley, Jerry, Carol, Greg, Bob Sundeen and Robin Howe, has been formed and is meeting. Regarding the Rutledge Drive crosswalks, we can get a Volunteer Sheriff from 8:00am-12:30pm on Sundays, with a suggested donation of \$4680 per year (see attachment). **Cynthia made a Motion to approve the cost of \$4680.00 per year for the Henderson County Volunteer Sheriff on Sundays, it was seconded by Debby and was passed.**

Margaret reported on personnel, they met with staff, and all files are updated.

Fr. Bill reported Deacon Sandy Rex is on board, inducted last Sunday, and will be clergy adviser for the Lay Eucharistic Visitor program, Outreach Committee, Altar Guild and Acolytes. The Outreach Committee is now chaired by Tom Deyerle. Fr. Bill reminded all that during his scheduled vacation, Supply Priests will be Fr. John Roberts on July 7, Fr. Bill Livingston, from St. Phillips in Brevard on July 28, and Rev. Bill Walker, from St. Phillips on September 1.

[Note from Clerk: Vestry meeting was halted, in order to allow time for John Barker to give an update on Discernment. Discernment Update with attachments will follow Vestry Minutes.]

Carol reported Ken Jones would like us to do something to celebrate the birth of our country on Sunday, July 7. We thought perhaps appropriate music and songs during breakfast. Cynthia gave a history of previous anthems used and Fr. Bill said he had discussed it with Dewitt, who is okay with the idea. Carol will call Peg Van Bergen to see if she will play the piano during breakfast. Next, there was a discussion on using Ministry Scheduler Pro (see attachment) and it was agreed further information is needed to make an informed decision. Carol then asked to move to Executive Session, with all Vestry members in attendance.

Meeting adjourned after Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Deyerle, Clerk

# DISCERNMENT UPDATE

JUNE 22, 2019

During the June 22, 2019, Vestry Retreat Meeting, John Barker gave a report on the Discernment Committee Update. Fr. Bill began by recommending, when new Rector comes on board, the Vestry schedule an overnight retreat, and invite a facilitator to help establish a cohesive connection and bonding experience for the Rector and Vestry. Highlights of John's report and Vestry discussion/comments are as follows:

1. John thanked the Vestry for their support, with special "kudos" to Leslie Stott, SJITW Church Administrator. He said at last count, he had sent 109 email requests to Leslie and she was and continues to be helpful to this process.
2. Regarding feedback from Cat Surveys, John said the consensus was:
  - a. Energy satisfaction is high, which indicated health and vitality of the church
  - b. On the list of items that need improvement, there were "none", which states the parish does not need to be "fixed"
  - c. Critical items of importance are preaching, pastoral care and strategic leadership
3. Shelley stated she appreciated the Committee recognized the young families as a ministry and resource of the church.
4. Greg reiterated that the Cat Survey was used in conjunction with the Holy Cow Conversations (HCC).
5. John stated the top 3 questions (identifying subjects) from the HCC (attached) were sermons, growth (youth, young families, etc.), and vision and leadership. Specifically:
  - a. Sermons be relatable to all ages and they have a strong connection to the liturgy.
  - b. Rector should have charisma, be a good communicator, continue tradition of pastoral care, utilize talent in others and uphold tradition.
  - c. Continued connection to young families.
  - d. There should be "managed growth", which includes welcoming energy.
6. John distributed the official June 2019 Parish Profile, primarily put together by Ken Jones. John also stated on June 22, 2019, the SJITW Rector Position was given to the Diocese along with the Profile, the OTM document and Job Description (see attachments).
7. John reported the next step is the position is posed on the Diocesan News website, and there is 6 weeks of quiet while Canon Augusta and Bishop Jose look at applications, removing any that are not a good fit. All appropriate applications will be given to the Discernment Committee, where they will rank and video conference the candidates they believe are a good fit for our church. Once the top candidates are determined, they will visit those candidates. They will then meet with the Vestry to make recommendations.