

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING OCTOBER 21, 2021

The October Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:00 p m by Fr. Josh Stephens, our Rector. Members attending were: Senior Warden, Jennifer Shelton, Junior Warden, Jerry Tanner, John Barker, Elizabeth Christenbury, Cynthia Easterling, Terry Enslen, E. R. Haire, Marie Hyder, Gibson Sims, Lynn Wiescholek, and Dick Zecher. Shelley Schiro was absent.

Devotional: The opening devotional was led by Lynn Wiescholek who asked members to take a moment of silence before she continued with a prayer for guidance.

Approval of Minutes: Jerry made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 16 Vestry meeting; it was seconded by Lynn and was passed.

Treasurer's Report: Tom began by announcing that the audit of our 2020 finances and processes has been completed and reviewed by the Audit Team and Financial Committee. Tom then introduced Slater Solomon from Asheville who has led church's audit through December 31, 2020. Slater began with a description of what has been done. In his opinion statement, he stated that the church had a clear audit. The report contained the opinion of the auditors in regard to our financial statements with recommendations for accounting entries to adjust our records and align them with financial statements. Jennifer made a motion to accept the audit report as presented; Marie seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Continuing with the treasurer's report, Tom stated that Income continues to exceed Expenses. The Forecast for the remainder of 2021 was reviewed and adjusted by the Finance Committee. A surplus of more than \$69,000 is currently forecast for the year. Work on the 2022 budget has continued and will be discussed in November.

The mortgage loan for the new Parish Hall has been paid off. At the end of September, \$12,050 had been accumulated (Mortgage Debt Sinking Fund) for payment of principal. An additional gift specifically for payment of the principal balance was received this month and has been applied to the loan.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Jennifer; Elizabeth seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Following the Treasurer's report, Jennifer called for an executive session. After the session ended, the regular vestry meeting continued.

Rector's Report: Based on current Covid 19 numbers, Fr. Josh made a motion to continue the mask mandate for all church services. Jennifer seconded the motion, and it was passed. The subject will be discussed again at the November Vestry meeting.

Fr. Josh announced that the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina, which formally began in 1922, is planning a celebration of the 100th anniversary during 2022. While events are in the

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planning stages, he believes that our parish will participate in some way. More information will be available in the coming months. Fr. Josh also announced that the Annual Diocesan Convention scheduled for Saturday, November 13, will be conducted via a Zoom meeting. E. R. and Shelly will be delegates with Dick and John to be alternates to the convention.

Junior Warden's Report: Jerry reported that the remodeling of the shed is going well and will be completed soon. He also stated that the repairs to the Parish House have been completed with the new dehumidifier being installed.

Committee Reports

The Nominating Committee announced the names of potential candidates for the new Vestry roster for the coming year. After discussion, Jennifer made a motion to approve the slate and Jerry seconded the motion. It was passed by the Vestry.

An update on our Stewardship campaign was given. To date, there have been a total of 124 pledges resulting in approximately \$449,000. Although pledges are continuing to be received, the Stewardship Committee plans to send a follow-up letter to members of the parish.

Following prayer led by Fr. Josh, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Barker, Clerk of the Vestry

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