

# THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

## MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

The September Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Fr. Josh Stephens, our Rector. Those attending included: Senior Warden, Jennifer Shelton, Junior Warden, Gibson Sims, Clint Adams, John Barker, E. R. Haire, Marissa Pharr, Will Rodriguez, Kim Sanders, Lynn Wiescholak, and Dick Zecher. Those absent were Fr. Ian and Elizabeth Christenbury.

**Devotional:** After a Vestry member check-in time, John Barker led the opening devotional with a prayer for guidance.

**Acceptance of Consent Agenda for September:** Vestry members moved to accept all committee reports for the month of September. Will made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 18 Vestry meeting; it was seconded by Clint and passed. There was no discussion.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom reported that through August, Income exceeds our Expenses by \$59,673 for the Year-to-Date. Although YTD Pledge Income is still behind, Pledge receipts for August were above our average for the past 4 years as a percentage of our total budget. Other Contributions and Memorials are still below the Budget. However, full-year expenses are expected to exceed the Annual Budget due to the purchase of new copiers, increased natural gas expenses, grounds upkeep including tree maintenance, and above-budget expenses for repair and painting of the Church's exterior. Slater Solomon of Corliss & Solomon and his team are conducting an audit and Financial Review of our 2021 finances. They are conducting a Financial Review for 2021, having performed a full audit of our 2020 finances last year. Presentation of the draft Audit Report to the Finance Committee is scheduled for October 13 and the final Audit Report to the Vestry for October 20.

The Finance Committee has met again to prepare a preliminary Budget for 2023, which calls for a 5.9% increase over the 2022 Budget for Income and a 7.1% increase for Expenses. These increases are driven by an inflation adjustment of 5% and the expenses of a full year for Fr. Ian. A major expense item is Medical Insurance; coverage and employee contribution are to be determined. Pledges of \$585,000, a 5.6% increase, will be needed for this Preliminary Budget.

A motion to accept treasure's report was made by Lynn, it was seconded by Clint and was passed.

**Rector's Report:** Fr. Josh discussed the Ingathering and Fall meeting scheduled for Sunday, October 16 at Kanuga Conference Center. The service, which will begin at 11:00 will be followed by a picnic and fun activities. All are encouraged to sign-up for this event where the pledges and UTO offerings will be blessed.

In addition, Fr. Josh discussed the renovation project that is in. The donors of the kitchen upgrade (\$25,000), wish to honor the ministry of Mike Covell. After a discussion of several options for renaming the kitchen, Mike's Galley was chosen. A plaque will be placed in his honor.

Will made a motion to rename the kitchen to Mike's Galley with a plaque to be erected, E.R seconded the motion, and it was approved.

**Senior Warden's Report:** Jennifer invited the Vestry to sign up for the event, 'Rise Against Hunger' scheduled for the upcoming Sunday afternoon. Additional volunteers are needed.

**Junior Warden's Report:** Gibson reported a huge tree near the building will have to be removed before it causes structural damage. He also mentioned that in preparing the surface of the outside of the church for resurfacing, the crew found rot in the soffit and one window seal as well as evidence of asbestos. The crew has worked on preparing the area to be painted with the project to begin next week.

In the kitchen area, new lights and a sink have been installed; the flooring will have to be taken up before the new one can be installed. Leister Flooring will be installing the new floor.

### **Old Business**

Lynn discussed the Fellowship Dinners from the summer. With all of the events planned for the fall and upcoming Advent season, planning of future dinners will not be planned until after the beginning of 2023. The discussion will continue at a later date.

### **Committee Reports**

Stewardship Committee: Clint reported that a timeline has been established. Speakers to promote the event will continue at Sunday services. Information will be mailed, and announcements will continue to be made. The Ingathering scheduled for Sunday, October 16, was discussed by Fr. Josh.

Following the recitation of the Lord's Prayer, the September Vestry Meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker  
Clerk of the Vestry