

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING DECEMBER 15, 2022

The December Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Fr. Josh Stephens, our Rector. Those attending included: Fr. Ian, our Curate, Senior Warden, Jennifer Shelton, Junior Warden, Gibson Sims, Clint Adams, John Barker, Elizabeth Christenbury, Marissa Pharr, Will Rodriguez, Kim Sanders, Lynn Wiescholek, and Dick Zecher (via Zoom). E. R. Haire was absent. In addition, Patrice German, Jerry Hall, and Laura Meherg, new vestry members from the class of 2023 were present.

Fr. Josh opened the meeting by thanking the outgoing Vestry members Gibson and Dick. Then he began with Vestry member check-in time.

Devotional: Clint Adams led the opening prayer for the Vestry and leadership.

Acceptance of Consent Agenda for December: Clint made a motion to accept all committee reports for December as well as the minutes of the November Vestry meeting; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth and was passed. There was no discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported that income is on target for the 2022 Budget with total expenses under control and below the budget. In reviewing the 2022 budget, the Finance Committee is currently forecasting a surplus of approximately \$60,000. With operating reserves below the established target due to increases in expenses, an addition to the reserve from the 2022 surplus is recommended to offset imbalances in the future. Subsequently, the following recommendations to the Vestry are 1). add \$15,000 to the Capital Reserve; 2). allocate \$10,000 to local outreach; 3). add \$1,000 to the Men's Club to assist with breakfast expenses; and 4). add the remainder of the surplus to Operating Reserves.

Clint made a motion to approve the Treasurer's recommendations and report, and Jennifer seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Rector's Report: Fr. Josh discussed plans for the upcoming Vestry Retreat scheduled for January 20 and 21. He also recounted a recent discussion with the bishop regarding the cost of health care. Bishop Jose is concerned and working on this issue.

In preparation for the upcoming Vestry Retreat, Fr. Josh reviewed two major goals from the 2022 Vestry Retreat. More review and discussion will follow at the Retreat

Senior Warden's Report: Jennifer made a motion that the church make the following changes to PNC banking: remove Jennifer Shelton and add John Barker, the new Senior Warden, and remove Gibson Sims and add the new Junior Warden, Will Rodriguez, as signatories for the PNC Checking Account, PNC Money Market Account, PNC Investment Account, Wells Fargo General Endowment Temporary Account, Wells

Fargo General Endowment Permanent Account, Wells Fargo Historical Churchyard Fund, Wells Fargo Historic Churchyard Restricted Trust, and Wells Fargo Brokerage Account. Elizabeth seconded it, and it was passed.

In addition, Jennifer made a motion to designate \$3,000 per month for the priest's housing allowance and to designate \$1,600 per month for the curate's housing allowance. This designation as parsonage allowance is consistent with that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986. Will seconded the motion and it was passed.

Committee Reports

Stewardship: Clint reported updates to the annual pledge drive. Currently, the church has received 151 pledging units with a target of 170. At this point, 87% of the targeted amount has been pledged; however, some pledges are continuing to come in. Appreciation notes have been written.

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Following a prayer led by Fr. Josh, the December Vestry Meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker

Clerk of the Vestry