

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING JUNE 17, 2021

The June Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:06 p m by Fr. Josh Stephens, our Rector. Members attending were: Senior Warden Jennifer Shelton, John Barker, Elizabeth Christenbury, Terry Enslin, E. R. Haire, Marie Hyder, Shelley Schiro, Gibson Sims, Lynn Wiescholek, and Dick Zecher. Cynthia Easterling and Jerry Tanner were absent.

Devotional: The opening devotional was led by Gibson Sims who talked about how our daily actions effect other people. He concluded with a prayer.

Approval of Minutes: Jennifer made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 20 Vestry meeting; it was seconded by Elizabeth and was passed.

Rector's Report: Fr. Josh began by welcoming E.R. Haire to the Vestry replacing Janet Johnson. E.R. will be liaison to the Christian Formation Committee.

Fr. Josh wants to make time for meeting with parishioners and ministries although he knows it will be difficult to schedule. The Vestry believes it will be worthwhile. He will be on vacation the last two weeks of July. The July Vestry meeting will be postponed until August 19.

The annual social gathering for Baring Society has been scheduled for August 20 at the home of Victoria and Dennis Flanagan. A plan to honor posthumous members of the Baring Society has been discussed; Fr. Josh made a motion to honor the following:

- John B. and Olive S. Cook – funds for general operations
- Elizabeth Rutledge Pickney - funds for general operations
- Carlton and Jacqueline Sears – support Historic Churchyard
- The Rev. Richard and Kathleen Sheffer – support Outreach

Gibson seconded the motion, and it was passed.

In new business, Fr. Josh announced that Bishop Jose has lifted mask requirements for attending church services. In conclusion, Fr. Josh shared one of his goals of being more effective organizationally. Various ideas including the need for an associate rector or an assistant to the rector were mentioned. Discussion will be ongoing.

Senior Warden's Report – Jennifer reported that the Outreach Committee is meeting next week. There are some new requests for funds that will be discussed.

Junior Warden's Report – In Jerry's absence, Fr. Josh reported that the ECW sale went well with the purpose of emptying the shed. Gibson is going to assist Jerry by getting contractors to repair the shed to remove mold and make it safer.

Providing an update on the status of purchasing a new truck for Kevin, Fr. Josh noted that donations amounting to more than ten thousand dollars have been received. Kevin has also completed some landscaping on the other side of the parking lot that is being enjoyed.

Committee Reports

Stewardship - Elizabeth Christenbury reported that the theme for 2022 has been chosen -- *St. John in the Wilderness: Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow*. The church's in-gathering will take place in October; still deciding on the venue. The committee is working on revising the brochure and letter that will be mailed to all members. The focus for 2022 will include increasing the number of pledges received along with giving of time and talent.

Communications - Lynn Wiescholek presented a review from the Communication Committee for the past three months. In April, the committee received a very thorough report from Mary Anne Inglis regarding the Lenten and Easter Events. Both were quite successful. The publicity the committee generated was effective and appreciated.

In May, a new Friends of Music Concert, an *Accent on Youth* featuring three of Dewitt's students, was recorded. The concert, which was made available as a premier showing on June 6th and is available through the church's YouTube, was promoted through news releases and social media. Also, in May a video presentation was produced after the Bishop's visit on Sunday, May 16th. It can be viewed through the June issue of *The Voice*.

In addition, the committee worked with the ECW as they prepared for a "Super Shed Sale" on June 12, 2021. News releases were sent out to several publications and local media. The committee is helping promote the *Feast of St. John: Celebrating Flat Rock* to be held on June 27th.

The Feast of St. John: Celebrating Flat Rock scheduled for June 27 at 5:00 – 8:00 pm was discussed. There will be a visual display showcasing the church and its many ministries.

The CEEN Committee (Community Engagement, Evangelism, and Newcomers) - Elizabeth Christenbury reported that more than 60 people are in the newcomer's group. A welcome party for the Newcomers Group is scheduled in August at Debbie Staton's home.

Creation Care Camp – Shelley reported that more than 15 students attended the camp. Students enjoyed guest speakers, walks, dissection,

Eucharistic Visitors – Dick reports that the visitation program is ready to begin. Scheduling with LEM in the next couple of weeks to acquaint Fr. Josh with the program and provide new information.

Treasurer's Report

Tom reported on the 2021 Operating Income / Expenses and Forecast as well as the Balance Sheet. While Income continues to exceed Expenses, Parish Life Activities and Expenses are running slightly above budget. All expense items, as well as the Forecast for the remainder of

2021, continue to be reviewed by the Treasurer and monitored by the Finance Committee. Although there has been an increase in insurance costs of 6% for clergy and staff, adjustments have been made and the committee is continuing to project a surplus.

In June, \$40,670 from the Mortgage Debt Sinking Fund was paid against the principal of the loan from PNC for the new Parish Hall. The 1% penalty for early payment of principal was waived. After this payment, our loan balance is \$84,013. Further, PNC has appointed a new account manager for our banking. Stacy Knapp and Tom met with him to review and revise our PNC services, eliminating the PNC Merchant (credit card) service and amending our church credit card agreement to add additional controls. Discussions are also underway regarding improvement of the return on our Money Market (Reserves) account.

Operating Reserve and Capital Reserve: Tom provided a brief summary of uses of Operating Reserve Funds and Capital Expense Reserves. Last month, a proposed Operating Reserve and Capital Replacement Reserve Policy and Recommendations were presented to the Vestry for consideration and adoption. Terry made a motion to accept the Operating Reserve Funds and Capital Expense Funds policy proposed by the Finance Committee and the Treasurer; Shelly seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Marie made a motion to move the 5K budgeted for the Operating Reserve to be moved to the Capital Reserve fund along with the 20K already budgeted for the Capital Reserve Fund for a total of 25K. Jennifer seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry,

At the direction of the Vestry and with Fr. Josh's assistance, an audit team of three independent parishioners was appointed. Tom continued discussing the audit that is being conducted. Vance Bettis, John Bell, and Gary German will conduct an internal audit. After contacting three financial service organizations, Corliss & Solomon was asked to present a proposal for an audit of our 2020 finances and processes. Jennifer moved to accept the Corlis bid for a full audit and move forward; John seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Fr. Josh made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; it was seconded by Marie, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Following prayer led by Fr. Josh, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Barker, Clerk of the Vestry