

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING OCTOBER 19, 2023

The October Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Fr. Josh Stephens. Those attending included: Fr. Ian Williams, our Curate, Senior Warden, John Barker, Junior Warden, Will Rodriguez, Elizabeth Christenbury, Patrice German, Jerry Holt, Marisa Pharr, Kim Sanders, Jennifer Shelton, and Laura Meherg Teel. Absent were Clint Adams and E.R. Haire.

After the welcome, Elizabeth led the devotion by reading a poem entitled "What Life Should Be" By Pat A. Fleming. The reading was followed by prayer and a Vestry member check-in.

Acceptance of Consent Agenda for October: Will made a motion to accept all committee reports as well as the minutes of the September Vestry meeting; Jennifer seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Rector's Report: Fr. Josh began by having Fr. Ian discuss the upcoming Diocesan Convention. According to the area Deanery, delegates and alternates are to be nominated and approved by the Vestry. Laurie Morris along with Don and Lynn Stine were selected. Jennifer made a motion to accept all Laurie Morris, Don Stine, and Lynn Stine as delegates to the Diocesan Convention; Elizabeth seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Fr. Josh outlined the work of the Appointments Committee regarding four nominees for four Vestry positions and four nominees for the Endowment Committee. After discussing potential nominees, Fr. Josh plans to contact all nominees before decisions are made. Final approval will take place in November. After discussion, Jerry made a motion to approve Carol Rector as the Chair of the Appointments Committee and Gary German as the Chair of the Finance Committee. Elizabeth seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported that with 75% of the year elapsed, Operating Income exceeds our Operating Expenses by approximately \$37,000 Year-to-Date.

Meeting on October 12, the Finance Committee reviewed the September 2023 Forecast, Operating Income and Expenses, Balance Sheet, and Consolidated Fund Activity. An operating surplus of approximately \$60,000 for the full year is currently forecasted. Further, the Committee approved the financial procedures for Reimbursement/Revenue. This policy distinguishes between receipts characterized as reimbursements and those regarded as revenue.

Reporting on Outreach, Tom noted that to date, more than \$90,000 has been distributed. In the General Outreach Fund, more than \$38,000 remains for this year. Between Backpack activities, the upcoming Angel Tree event, cash contributions, and potential ECW "Make a Difference Grants," our parish totals for Outreach may reach approximately \$140,000 this year.

Will made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; Kim seconded the motion, and it was passed by members of the Vestry.

Continuing, Tom discussed the reactivation of Trust B, originally established in 2006, as a Wells Fargo investment fund under the management of Endowment Trustees. It will be initially funded by a legacy gift received in July 2023. Options for renaming the fund were discussed. In 2023 and beyond, after transfers of Operations surplus, any remaining surpluses will be placed into this fund.

Following a discussion of the disposition of the Stone Foundation Gift, Will made a motion to transfer the Legacy Gift to Trust B. The motion was seconded by John and passed by members of the Vestry.

Further, a new policy regarding Future Legacy Gifts was proposed. The policy states that all future undesignated gifts received from an estate, a trust, or other designation shall be considered extraordinary gifts and be allocated to the Endowment Trusts.

Jennifer made a motion to approve the Future Legacy Gifts policy; Marissa seconded the motion, and it was passed by members of the Vestry.

Jr. Warden's Report – Will reported that the new golf cart shed will be installed during the third week of October. Another upcoming project will be cleaning gutters and installing gutter screens.

Committee Reports

Historic Churchyard: Elizabeth reported that Ken Jones will be stepping down as the chair of the committee. In addition, during the quarterly meeting, the committee voted to increase the price of segment, niche, and cremation sites. Adjustments that will take effect on January 1, 2024.

Stewardship: In Clint's absence, John reported that 155 pledges have been received to date. The goal for the 2024 campaign is 175.

Following prayer, the October 19 Vestry meeting adjourned at 6: 55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker
Clerk of the Vestry