

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 2021

The November Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:02 p. m. by Fr. Josh Stephens, our Rector. Members attending were: Senior Warden, Jennifer Shelton, Junior Warden, John Barker, Elizabeth Christenbury, Cynthia Easterling, Terry Enslen, E. R. Haire, Marie Hyder, Gibson Sims, Lynn Wiescholak, and Dick Zecher. Jerry Tanner was absent.

Devotional: The opening devotional was led by Shelley Schiro who read excerpts from “The Forest’s Blessed Abode” by Belinda Stotler. She followed with prayer # 8 For the Beauty of the Earth, page 840, from the *BCP* ‘Prayers and Thanksgivings’.

Following the devotional, Josh moved to an executive session to discuss personnel and other issues. After the session ended at 5:56 p.m., the regular vestry meeting continued.

Treasurer’s Report: In Tom’s absent, Susan MacDonald provided financial reports. Susan stated that Income continues to exceed Expenses and the forecast for the remainder of 2021 has been reviewed and adjusted by the Finance Committee. A surplus in excess of \$65,000 is currently forecast for the year. Based on this information, it is recommended that the Vestry should consider deferring requesting this year’s disbursement of the Endowment, except for \$1,388.00 for the outreach international ministry. A decision was made to delay the discussion of the surplus until the December Vestry Meeting.

Continuing, Susan reported that during October, the Organ Project was closed. This resulted in an addition to our Fixed Assets of \$53,698 and elimination of the balance in Construction-in-Process. A new fund, ‘Organ Fund Balance’, has been established for the remaining excess of contributions over expenditures. This fund is for purposes of future additions to the organ, e.g., ranks of pipes, or major refurbishment but not for routine maintenance.

Based on recommendations from the 2020 Audit, which was presented and approved by the Vestry in October, two entries were required that affected the financial results of last year. One reconciled the Fixed Assets Fund Balance with the Fixed Assets Total. The other was an adjustment of Construction-in-Process and Designated Gifts Fund Expenditures resulting from the Organ Project.

Three Capital projects are currently underway: refurbishment of the shed, replacement of the truck, and a Parish Hall dehumidifier. The projected expense for the shed project and replacement of the truck, expected to be \$25,000 each, have been approved by the Vestry. The cost for the dehumidifier is projected to be \$6,000. A motion to approve the projected cost was made by Gibson, seconded by Elizabeth and approved by the vestry.

During the past month, work continued on the 2022 General Operations Budget resulting in a proposal for a balanced budget. Comparing budgets from the past five years, Susan reported that in 2021, personnel costs accounted for approximately 52% of the budget while in 2015 personnel costs accounted for 67% if the budget. The proposed budget for 2022 includes funding for an

Assistant Rector for part of the year. A motion to approve the Proposed Working Budget for 2022 was made by Shelley; it was seconded by Lynn and was passed.

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

Approval of Minutes: Cynthia made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 21 Vestry meeting; it was seconded by John, and it was passed.

Rector's Report: Fr. Josh began the discussion of requiring masks during worship. While numbers had plateaued in the past few weeks, numbers of Covid 19 transmissions are once again increasing. After much discussion, Fr. Josh made a motion to continue wearing masks for the next two months; Dick seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Fr. Josh continued with a review of a potential partnership with Free Clinics. Since the Vestry had previously mentioned several areas of concern, a meeting with the head of the Free Clinics will be scheduled to clarify and discuss those points.

The schedule for Advent and Christmas season was outlined and services have been planned collaboratively with Dewitt. Announcements will be made on the website, the *Voice*, and email updates. E.R will perform Truman Capote's *Christmas Memory* during the Christmas season. Several performances have been planned to begin on Friday, December 17 @ 7:00 p.m. In addition to these events, the Vestry will host a staff luncheon during December.

Continuing with a discussion of the new Vestry members beginning in January 2022, Fr. Josh made a motion to present the slate at the annual meeting scheduled for December 5 at the Men's Club breakfast between services. The Vestry voted to approve the slate and introduce the new members at the Annual Meeting.

Committee Reports

Outreach Committee – According to the treasurer's report, through October 31, Outreach disbursements total \$76,162. This compares to a full-year total of \$82,668 in 2020. Additional disbursements will be authorized by the committee at the November meeting. Fr. Josh reported additional allocations in excess of \$39,000 for organizations that include Safelight, Edneyville Food Pantry, IAM, etc.

Stewardship: An update on our Stewardship campaign was given. To date, there have been a total of 144 pledges resulting in approximately \$499,600. Phone calls will be made during December to serve as reminders.

Following prayer led by Fr. Josh, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Barker, Clerk of the Vestry