

## THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

### MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING NOVEMBER 17, 2022

The November Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by Fr. Josh Stephens, our Rector. Those attending included: Fr. Ian, our Curate, Senior Warden, Jennifer Shelton, Junior Warden, Gibson Sims, John Barker, Elizabeth Christenbury, E. R. Haire, Marissa Pharr via Zoom, Will Rodriguez, Kim Sanders, Lynn Wiescholek, and Dick Zecher via Zoom. Clint Adams was absent.

**Devotional:** Kim led the opening devotional with a reading from Corinthians related to the Church as one body. Following the devotional, Fr. Josh discussed the Vestry Covenant from January 2022 which will be revisited during the upcoming Vestry Retreat.

**Acceptance of Consent Agenda for November:** Will made a motion to approve all committee reports for November as well as the minutes of the October Vestry meeting; it was seconded by Elizabeth and was passed.

**Budgeter's Report:** Tom reported that income was back on track with the 2022 Budget with total expenses under control and below the budget. However, to finish the year with a surplus, pledges must be paid. Despite operating reserves dropping below the target due to increases in expenses over the past 12 months, recommendations will be made in December to correct the imbalance.

Tom also reported that the Finance Committee met to review the 2022 Budget and to discuss a possible surplus for the year. In addition, the committee has developed a proposed budget for 2023 which calls for an 8.3% increase in the 2022 Budget for Income and a 7.0% increase in expenses. Pledges of \$585,000, a 5.6% increase, will be needed for this Preliminary Budget. The Preliminary Budget has a \$16,277 surplus as a contingency against a shortfall in pledges and endowment income. The Preliminary Budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting on December 4 with yearend revisions presented to the Vestry for adoption at the January meeting. Jennifer made a motion to accept the Proposed Budget as well as the Treasure's Report, it was seconded by Will and passed.

Continuing, Tom reported that the Endowment Committee has added David Christenbury to serve for a three-year term replacing an outgoing member. Jim Spry will serve as the Chair for Endowment in 2023. E.R. made a motion to approve the endowment appointments; it was seconded by Lynn and was passed.

Tom further explained that approximately 4% of the Endowment Fund's scheduled distribution is restricted to International Outreach; the decision for distributing the remaining funds will be discussed at the next Vestry meeting. He noted that a recent endowment gift was designated specifically for the maintenance of the church bells. In

the future, donors are encouraged to make undesignated gifts. Gibson made a motion to approve the distribution of Endowment Funds; E. R. seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Lynn made a motion to request the distribution of funds from the Endowment Committee. It was seconded by Kim and the motion was passed.

**Rector's Report:**

Fr. Josh discussed the new slate of Vestry members who will begin their three-year terms in January 2023. Their biographies will be published in the December *Voice*, and they will be introduced at the Parish Annual Meeting on December 5.

Jennifer made a motion to accept the slate of new Vestry members, Lynn seconded the motion, and it was passed. Lynn will invite the new members to the December staff luncheon hosted by Vestry. John will invite them to the December 15 Vestry meeting.

**Senior Warden's Report:** Jennifer reminded everyone that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 4, at 10:00 a.m. She also reported that a letter was sent to Bishop Jose and others at Western Diocese to address the high cost of Medical Insurance from the Church.

**Junior Warden's Report:** Gibson reported that he is completing all current projects and final details for the end of the year and his term as Junior Warden.

**Old Business:**

Stewardship: In Clint's absence, Fr. Josh reported updates to the annual pledge drive. Currently, the church has received 145 pledging units with a target of 170. Pledges are continuing to come in and appreciation notes are being written. Phone calls have been made as reminders to those members who have not yet pledged.

Following a prayer led by Fr. Josh, the November Vestry Meeting was adjourned at 6: 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret A. Barker  
Clerk of the Vestry