

# THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

## MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2022, VESTRY MEETING

The January Vestry meeting held at Kanuga Conference Center was called to order at 10:50 a. m. by Fr. Josh Stephens, our Rector. Due to inclement weather, some members joined via Zoom. Those attending in person were: Senior Warden, Jennifer Shelton, Junior Warden, Gibson Sims, John Barker, E. R. Haire, Marissa Pharr, and Lynn Wiescholek. Elizabeth Christenbury, Terry Enslin, Will Rodriguez, and Dick Zecher joined the meeting virtually. Clint Adams and Kim Sanders were absent.

**Approval of Minutes:** In the first order of business, Fr. Josh referred to minutes from December 16 Vestry meeting. E.R. Haire made a motion to approve the minutes; it was seconded by Will and was passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom began by discussing the **2021 Operating Income / Expenses** He announced that the year 2021 ended well with a surplus of more than \$26,000. This was achieved through the generosity of our parishioners and supporters as well as through maintained discipline with expenses. In addition, Tom reported that Outreach for 2021 amounted to \$125,000.00, which represents a large increase from the last two years. However, he noted that it does not include outreach expenses that are part of our Diocesan Pledge, volunteer hours devoted to outreach, or materials and goods donated for outreach.

In discussing the Balance Sheet and Funds, Tom explained that the expenses for the Shed Refurbishment project, not having been completed in 2021, will carry over as now Construction-in-Process. The project has cost \$30,839 through December, and further additional costs for the roof (\$7,178) and miscellaneous (\$300) are expected in January. After contributions for the project (\$15,070), the total cost is not expected to exceed the \$25,000 authorized by the Vestry at the August meeting.

In addition, Tom announced that he and Gibson have begun a review of the Asset Replacement and Maintenance plan. The following projects are currently planned for 2022:

- Shed Refurbishment completion: \$7,478
- Church Sanctuary Audiovisual system: \$20,000
- Admin Building Security Doors: \$15,000
- Truck: \$25,000
- Parish Hall Dehumidifier: \$6,000

In meeting with Susan and the Finance Committee in early January 13, Tom reported that the proposed 2022 General Operations Budget was adjusted for 2022 pledges, salaries, and other miscellaneous items. It will include funding for an Assistant Rector for a portion of the year. The proposed Budget is essentially balanced, and projects a

small surplus of Income over Expenses. E.R. made a motion to approve the 2022 budget, Jennifer seconded it; and it was passed by the vestry

In conclusion, Tom and other members of the Endowment Committee have developed a brochure to encourage and promote endowment giving to the church. The brochure and cover letter will be mailed at the end of February.

**Rector's Report:** Fr. Josh began by briefly discussing the goals established during the 2021 Vestry Retreat. One of the main goals achieved was paying off the mortgage of the Parish House. In 2022, there will be fewer goals, but they will be more clearly defined.

As in previous months, the discussion of masking continued. With the new Omicron variant of COVID-19 causing an increase in infections and hospitalizations, Bishop Jose has asked parishes to continue with safety precautions. Gibson made a motion to continue to wear masks through the month of February; it was seconded by Lynn and was passed.

Fr. Josh continued by mentioning new parish members, the Askews, who are both ordained Episcopal priests. They want to assist the parish anyway possible and will preach on weeks when Fr. Josh will be gone. They also want to be involved in Christian Formation and children's ministries.

In concluding his report, Fr. Josh discussed the calling of an assistant priest for part of the year. Funding has been approved. The areas in which an assistant could most effectively be utilized in the parish include working with youth and young families, formation, rotating preaching, funerals and special services, helping with visitation and pastoral care. The process for calling an assistant will begin this spring.

**Junior Warden's Report:** Gibson reiterated items that Tom has mentioned regarding projects for 2022. He also noted that additional electrical work will be needed when the new dehumidifier is installed at the Parish House. Gibson reported that 7 new doors will be installed in the Administrative and Sunday School buildings as soon as possible with new quotes being requested. Gibson also discussed a new name for the storage shed. He proposed that it be renamed 'the Mission House' in keeping with its history and original purpose. The motion was seconded by Jennifer and was passed by the Vestry.

## **Committee Reports**

Elizabeth announced that a workday has been scheduled for March 12 in the Historic Churchyard to assist with general cleanup of the grounds. Everyone was invited to attend.

## **Stewardship Report**

Fr. Josh reported that 160 pledges have been received for the 2022 budget year totally more than \$554,000. While the number of pledging units was less than the target number of 170, the total amount pledged was more.

The January Vestry Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret A. Barker  
Clerk of the Vestry