

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING FEBRUARY 17, 2022

The February Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:00 p. m. by Fr. Josh Stephens, our Rector. **Members attending were:** Senior Warden, Jennifer Shelton, Junior Warden, Gibson Sims, Clint Adams, John Barker, Elizabeth Christenbury, E. R. Haire, Marissa Pharr, and Lynn Wiescholek. Terry Enslin, Kim Sanders, and Zecher were absent.

Devotional: The opening devotional was shared by Marisa Pharr who quoted Ralph Waldo Emerson on the subject of 'enthusiasm' and followed by examples of enthusiasm from the Scriptures. She ended with prayer.

Approval of Minutes: E.R. made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 29 Vestry meeting; it was seconded by Will and was passed.

Treasurer's Report - Tom Griswold began by stating that our income in 2022 has exceeded expenses by a large amount, but this is due in part to those who prepay their annual pledges. Tom also discussed a proposal for the investment of reserves that was endorsed by the Finance Committee. PNC offers a Principle Guaranteed Annuity for non-profits with a rate of return higher than that provided to other customers. Literature regarding the providers of the annuities can be found in the Vestry Financial Reports for the February meeting. Tom and the Finance Committee recommended that we transfer funds from the PNC Money Market account to Principle Guaranteed Annuities, a new PNC account. It was seconded by John and was passed.

Rector's Reports - Fr. Josh began with a discussion of mask requirements going forward. Several points were discussed including vaccination rates, transmissions rates, hospitalizations. The percentage of parish members who are fully vaccinated is high. Transmission rates for Covid-19 variants, while still high, are showing a decline in seriousness and a decrease in hospitalizations. Members of the Vestry discussed establishing a date to end the masking requirement. E.R made a motion to extend the mask requirement until the next Vestry meeting; John seconded the motion, and it was passed. It is noted that this may be an ongoing issue and if spikes in infection rates occur, masking requirements may change.

Fr. Josh continued by outlining the upcoming Lenten activities that have been scheduled. Activities include Lenten Reflections, Lent Madness, the Mardi Gras celebration, Ash Wednesday services, and weekly parish dinners on Thursday evenings that are followed by a Lenten Lecture series led by the Episcopal nuns from the Community of St. Mary in Sewanee, Tennessee.

Junior Warden Report: Gibson reported that he is working with Robin Howe to re-establish the Building and Grounds Committee. Gibson discussed the 151 steppingstones around the church that have been problematic. These stones will be sandblasted to help improve the surface area for safety. Other items discussed were accepting bids for two new dehumidifiers for the Parish House, repair of the floor in

Parish House (by contractors), trees to be removed behind the Mission House, and receiving bids for 7 news doors in the Administrative and Christian Ed. Buildings.

In discussing the church truck, E.R. stated that he would be willing to investigate the purchase of a Honda.

Other Reports:

Task Force 1: Hiring an Associate Priest – The job description has been developed and the position has been posted in the Episcopal News Service and various seminaries around the country. As soon as applications are received and reviewed, interviews will be scheduled with the goal of hiring a new associate by June 1.

Task Force 2: Building Parish Community- The committee has met to brainstorm and begin to create opportunities for deepening relationships with one another and Christ, and to support parishioners who are in need with the goal of building parish community.

Acceptance of Reports for February: Lynn made a motion to approve all Vestry reports; it was seconded by John and was passed.

- Elizabeth noted that the Clean-up day for the Historic Churchyard has rescheduled been scheduled for March 5.

Following prayer led by Fr. Josh, the meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret A. Barker, Clerk of the Vestry