

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

## MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING AUGUST 17, 2023

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

Fr. Josh welcomed everyone and began a Vestry member check-in. After this, Fr. Josh opened the meeting with prayer.

**Acceptance of Consent Agenda for August:** Clint made a motion to accept all committee reports as well as the minutes of the June Vestry meeting; Patrice seconded the motion, and it was passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tom reported that with 58% of the year elapsed, Operating Income exceeds our Operating Expenses by approximately \$25,000 Year-to-Date.

Pledge income, other contributions, and total operating income are all slightly ahead of last year. Although some items exceed their monthly budgets due to seasonal expenses, all operating expenses are within the annual 2023 budget with total operating expenses being slightly below budget. Tom noted that the Finance Committee is already beginning to work on the 2024 budget.

In discussing the Endowment Fund, Tom announced that he would be replacing Jim Spry as chair of the committee. Tom discussed an upcoming mailing to the congregation on ways to increase the Endowment fund.

Tom reported that Slater Soloman and his team at Corliss and Solomon PLLC are proceeding with the Financial Review of our 2022 records. The results of the Review are scheduled for presentation to the Finance Committee and the Vestry in September.

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

**Rector's Report:** Fr. Josh discussed important dates and upcoming events in our parish.

- October 1: Second Annual Food Packing Event
- October 15: Fall Fellowship Festival at Kanuga Conference Center with a service at 11:00 am followed by a cook-out
- October 22-25: Holy Hikes of Western North Carolina Retreat at Valle Crucis

Fr. Josh announced a recent Legacy gift received by the parish. The Vestry, along with the Treasurer, will discuss options at an upcoming meeting for allocating and investing

this gift. He also reported that the recent Empty Bowls event raised over \$20,000 for the Backpack Program.

Fr. Josh discussed the upcoming Stewardship Campaign. The theme for 2024 is 'Growing by Sharing God's Gifts'. Information will be mailed to the congregation the first week of September with an 'ingathering event' planned for October 15 at Kanuga Conference Center. The Stewardship Committee's target for 2024 is 175 pledges.

Continuing Fr. Josh discussed the Hames estimate for the new AV system for the church. After considering several options, the proposed plan is to install the system in the first back pew on the left by the closet that houses the electronic panel. After a call for a motion, Kim moved that the Vestry approve the Hames AV system and its placement in the church. Elizabeth seconded the motion, and it was passed.

**Curate's Report** – Fr. Ian discussed potential plans to expand and update the nursery area due to increasing attendance. More details will be available at a later date.

Following a prayer, the August 17 Vestry meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker  
Clerk of the Vestry