

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2021

The December 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, Jerry Tanner, John Barker, Elizabeth Christenbury, Cynthia Easterling, E. R. Haire, Shelley Schiro, Lynn Wiescholek, and Dick Zecher. Maire Hyder, Gibson Sims, and Terry Enslin were absent.

Devotional: The opening devotional was written by Marie Hyder who used excerpts from Frederick Buechner's *Wishful Thinking*. It was presented by Fr. Josh who followed with prayers for the parish and for guidance from the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Approval of Minutes: Elizabeth made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18 Vestry meeting; it was seconded by Shelley and was passed.

Jr. Warden Report - Jerry Tanner reported on the completion of the shed and installation of the new shed roof scheduled for the middle of January. In addition, bids are being sought for the dehumidifier which will be purchased and installed in January. The contractor will be completing repairs to the floor in the coming weeks. The new truck has been ordered and should be delivered in January. Finally, Jerry stated that Pace's Tar Hill Paving has completed partial paving on the church parking lot.

Confirming New Officers of the Vestry - Before welcoming new Vestry members, Fr. Josh expressed his appreciation for the service of members of the Vestry who are leaving at the end of the year. They included Jerry Tanner, Cynthia Easterling, and Shelly Schiro. Fr. Josh also announced that new officers of the Vestry for 2022 will be Jennifer Shelton (continuing as Senior Warden), Gibson Sims (Junior Warden), and Tom Griswold (continuing as Treasurer). A motion was made by Jerry to confirm the new officers of the Vestry; Cynthia seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Treasurer's Report - Tom Griswold stated that Operating Income for 2021 continues to exceed expenses with a projected surplus to be discussed in January after the end of the year totals. Since some additional expenses may be incurred prior to the end of 2021, it was recommended that the Vestry delay voting on the final budget for 2022 until the January meeting.

Tom noted that additional disbursements were made in November from the Capital Replacement Fund for the Shed Refurbishment project. The project has cost \$30,839 through December 9, and further additional costs for the roof (\$7,178) and miscellaneous (\$300) are expected. After contributions for the project (\$15,070), the cost to the Capital Replacement Fund is not expected to exceed the \$25,000 authorized by the Vestry at the August meeting. Although the 2021 budget planned for a \$25,000 expense for the truck replacement and \$6,000 for the Parish Hall Dehumidifier, these purchases have been rescheduled to 2022.

Tom discussed the Endowment Fund as two recent donations totaling over \$9,000 have been received. Jennifer made a motion to allocate the gifts from the two donors to the Endowment Fund; it was seconded by Shelley and passed.

Although Tom recommended deferring a portion of Endowment Fund Income until next year, the amount of \$1,388 of the Endowment Fund's scheduled distribution is restricted to International Outreach. E.R. made a motion to authorize this distribution; Dick seconded the motion. and it was passed.

In discussing the projected surplus from 2021 budget, Tom made several recommendations. Those suggestions included: 1) Add \$20,000 to the Capital Reserves. 2) Create a new fund to be used for expenses related to calling a new Associate Rector. 3) Allocate up to \$30,000 to Local Outreach and up to \$10,000 to International Outreach. 4) Add to the Endowment Fund to increase the annual contribution to General Operations. 5) Add to the Operating Reserves.

During a discussion the budget surplus, John petitioned the Vestry to purchase additional space for a fireproof storage system and file cabinets to house historical documents belonging to the church. Elizabeth made a motion to approve the request, Shelley seconded it, and it was passed by the Vestry.

Fr. Josh made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report; it was seconded by John and was passed.

Rector's Reports - Fr. Josh discussed committee assignments, devotionals, and gatekeepers for 2022. In addition, he discussed the upcoming Vestry Retreat on January 22 which will be held in lieu of the regularly scheduled meeting. The venue as well as the agenda will be sent to the Vestry in early January. Fr. Josh continued with an update on Free Clinics Project which had been previously discussed. Based on recommendations, it was determined that the Parish Hall Kitchen facility will not meet Health Department Standards for a commercial kitchen operation. It was announced that the renovated Shed will be officially dedicated at a special service on Sunday, January 22 at 2:00 p.m.

Stewardship: Fr. Josh provided an update on the Stewardship campaign. Members of the Stewardship Committee and Vestry met to make phone calls to those members of the parish who have not yet pledged. Currently there are 154 pledging units totaling approximately \$540,000.00.

Sr. Warden Report – Jennifer made a motion that the church remove Jerry Tanner and add the new Junior Warden, Gibson Sims, as a signatory for the PNC Checking Account, PNC Money Market Account, Wells Fargo General Endowment Temporary Account, Wells Fargo General Endowment Permanent Account, Wells Fargo Historical Churchyard Fund, Wells Fargo Historic Churchyard Restricted Trust, and Wells Fargo Brokerage Account. It was seconded by Lynn and was passed.

Committee Reports

Young Families: Shelley expressed her appreciation for all who helped create the greenery sprays for the slave graves and lovingly placed them on the grave markers earlier this month. The young families also gathered and made advent wreaths for their homes. While Mary Anne Inglis will continue to teach the younger children in Sunday School, she will no longer serve as Youth Group Leader. Marissa Pharr will now serve as the vestry representative of the “Young” families at St John in the Wilderness.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Barker, Clerk of the Vestry