

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING NOVEMBER 16, 2023

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

After the welcome, Kim led the devotion by sharing a reading from James 2, verses 14 and 24. The reading was followed by prayer and a Vestry member check-in.

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

Rector's Report: Fr. Josh began by discussing the slate of new Vestry members who will be presented for vote at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Patrice made a motion to accept the slate of new members; Kim seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry. John will invite the new members to the December Vestry Meeting.

In addition, Fr. Josh announced the names of the new Endowment Trustees. Will made a motion to approve the nominees, Clint seconded the motion, and it was passed by the Vestry. Elizabeth made a motion to approve the new members of the Trustees. They include Jan Tanner, Vance Bettis, Chris Caldwell, Mike Teel, and Ned Curtis who will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Will seconded the motion and it was passed by the Vestry.

Fr. Josh discussed the Holy Hike at Valle Crucis in October. He also mentioned upcoming retreats to Charleston, South Carolina, and Quebec City as opportunities for parishioners to engage in educational and fellowship activities.

Treasurer's Report: Tom reported that with 83% of the year elapsed, Operating Income exceeds our Operating Expenses by approximately \$63,000. After transfers to various funds, the surplus Year-to-Date is approximately \$52,000.

Tom reported that the Endowment Trustees have approved the distribution of approximately \$35,000 from the Endowment Fund to be allocated to General Operations, International Outreach, and the Bells Maintenance Fund. Will made a motion to authorize the transfer of funds from the Wells Fargo Endowment account to General Operations, International Outreach, and Bells Maintenance Fund. Jerry seconded the motion, and it was passed by members of the Vestry.

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

In addition, Tom reported that in the November Finance Committee meeting, a surplus of approximately \$87,000. The Committee has completed work on the proposed 2024 Budget, which projects a small surplus of approximately \$1,200. The proposed budget was presented for the Vestry's acceptance and will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

Will made a motion to approve the proposed 2024 Budget; Kim seconded the motion, and it was passed by members of the Vestry.

Jr. Warden's Report – Will reported that the shed for the golf cart storage has been completed. The building will also be wired for electricity

Committee Reports

Holy Hikes: Patrice discussed the formation of a *Trails Committee* consisting of Cynthia Easterling, Ed Black, Jim Olson, and Fr. Ian. The Committee will examine the possibility of connecting the church's property to Boyd Drive. Patrice made a motion to have the Committee discuss options with Boyd Drive residents; Will seconded the motion and it was passed by the Vestry.

Stewardship: Clint reported that 164 pledges have been received to date. The goal for the 2024 campaign is 175.

At 6:20, Will made a motion to move the Vestry Meeting to Executive Session; Jerry seconded the motion, and it was passed.

After the Executive Session, Fr. Josh led the group in closing prayer. Following prayer, the November 16 Vestry meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker
Clerk of the Vestry