

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING OCTOBER 20, 2022

The October 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, Jennifer Shelton, Junior Warden, Gibson Sims, Clint Adams, John Barker, Elizabeth Christenbury, E. R. Haire, Marissa Pharr, Will Rodriguez, Kim Sanders, Lynn Wiescholek, Dick Zecher.

Devotional: After Vestry member check-in time, Elizabeth Christenbury led the opening devotional with a prayer from an Oklahoma UTO member on counting one's blessings.

Acceptance of Consent Agenda for October: Vestry members moved to accept all committee reports for the month of October. Fr. Josh made a motion to approve the minutes of the September Vestry meeting; it was seconded by Lynn and passed. There was no discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Tom began by introducing Slater Solomon of Corliss & Solomon, PLLC, who presented the 2021 Review Report to the Vestry. This report was presented to the Finance Committee last week. According to the report, no modifications, adjustments, or changes to 2021 financial reports were recommended. Differences between the Review Financial Statements and the SJIW Financial Statements, concerning fund transfers, have been explained and made part of the Review records.

Tom reported that through September, with 75% of the year elapsed, Income continues to exceed Expenses by approximately \$30,000 for the Year-to-Date. However, there appears to be a shortfall of 8% in Pledge Income, which is a concern. Donor statements will be prepared and mailed in November to prompt payment of pledges before year-end.

Although Total Expenses are at 71% of the Budget, expenses incurred during September and October were above budget. Expenses for 2021 are expected to exceed the Annual Budget due to the increased cost of natural gas, office equipment, and grounds upkeep. In addition, above-budget expenses for the maintenance, which includes repair and painting of the Church's exterior trim and woodwork.

Will made a motion to accept the 2021 Financial Review Report and Treasure's Report, it was seconded by Gibson and passed.

Rector's Report: Fr. Josh made a motion to appoint Clint Adams and E. R. Haire as delegates to the Diocesan Convention in November. Alternates were Lynn Wiescholek and Cynthia Easterling. Elizabeth seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Fr. Josh discussed setting a date for the 2023 Vestry Retreat. A tentative date was set for January 21 with details to follow.

In addition, Fr. Josh discussed an opportunity for community engagement and youth support. A local mountain bike team, the Henderson Hellbenders, would like to meet at the church once a week for practice, team building, and educational sessions from January - May 2023. Several riders and coaches are members of St. John.

(Closed session: Vestry Nominating Committee)

Senior Warden's Report: Jennifer thanked everyone who helped with the Rise Against Hunger event.

Junior Warden's Report: Gibson reported that the kitchen is almost finished. A new dishwasher has been ordered. An event to dedicate the kitchen has been scheduled for October 25.

New Business:

Insurance Coverage for 2023: According to the Diocesan policy, churches must provide medical insurance for clergy and lay employees who work at least 30 hours a week. Although medical insurance for employees is administered through the Episcopal Church Medical Trust, insurance for members of a family is not required to be administered through the same Medical Trust.

After meeting with the Finance Committee, a proposal for Medical Insurance in 2023 was developed. The church will provide every eligible employee with single medical coverage at no cost. While an employee may opt for a different plan through the Medical Trust, SJIW will pay only 65% of the additional cost of the different plan above the cost for single coverage.

Should the employee elect to obtain medical insurance for family members separate from the plans offered by the Medical Trust, SJIW will provide subsidies or credits. Coverage should extend to only spouses and/or children. The subsidy will be paid as an additional salary, but the total cost to SJIW (including the costs of benefits and payroll taxes paid by SJIW as a consequence of the additional salary) will be limited as described above.

If the spouse of the employee has available to him or her an employer-provided medical insurance plan, the options of additional coverage for the spouse and a medical insurance subsidy for coverage including the spouse are not available to the employee. Coverage and the subsidy are still available for children.

E.R made a motion to accept the insurance coverage proposal for 2023; Dick seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Old Business:

Clint reported on updates of the annual pledge drive. Currently, the church has received 131 pledging units with a target of 170. Pledges are continuing to come in and appreciation notes are being written. Phone calls will be made as reminders to those members who have not yet pledged.

Following a prayer by E.R, the October Vestry Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret A. Barker

Clerk of the Vestry