

## Vestry Minutes

November 15, 2022

**Present:** Kathy Butler, Alliee DeArmond, Win Fernald, Joanna Phillips, Chris Rowen, Jon Showalter, Debra Spencer, The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller, Antonette Wood,

**Guests:** Nelson Crandall and John Melvin

Tracy convened the meeting at 6:33pm.

**Formation:** Win opened with a prayer and reading, "Even Eagles Need a Push." We were asked to reflect on, "How does this reading make us feel and what does it say about our roll on the vestry?"

**Consent Agenda:** Jon moved and Debra seconded for approval of the Consent agenda:

- The Minutes of the October 18<sup>th</sup> Vestry Meeting
- Helpful Shop Grants Committee: Dan Atwell, Margy Cottle, Loris Gielczyk, Jacklyn Johnston, and Jackie Vischer.

**Treasure's Report:** Nelson Crandall

- There was no financial report because Tiana needs the credit card statements to prepare the report.
- The Helpful Shop has \$45,000 available for Grant Awards
- We are under budget year-to-date.
- A draft budget was not available for 2023. The 2023 budget must be Realm compatible going into the new year. The Vestry is expecting to have the 2023 draft budget that is Realm compatible available for review at the December Vestry Meeting.
- Life Insurance: Both Mother Tracy and Lisa have 2 life insurance policies that are paid by St. John's. The Vestry agreed to keep the Diocesan policy that is included with the health insurance plan and drop the life insurance policy that is part of the church pension fund. This change becomes effective with Vestry approval of the 2023 budget.
- Sabbatical Reserve: The current amount in the Sabbatical reserve is \$13,260.00. The Treasure believes it is higher than necessary and has proposed that the contribution to this reserve account be reduced next year. The Vestry has asked that the Finance Committee review this issue and make a recommendation to the Vestry at the December Vestry meeting.
- Cost of Living Increase: The Diocese has recommended a 4% increase in all salaries paid to clergy and staff. A suggestion has also been made to increase salaries by 8%, the same as the scheduled Social Security increase. The Treasure will prepare proposed budgets with a 4% and an 8% option and the Vestry will consider these options at its December meeting and approve the increase to be used for 2023.

**DECISION:**

- Media Technician: Funding the Media Tech is currently coming out of Sabbatical funds. Jon offered a motion, seconded by Debra, that we continue funding the media tech. from the Sabbatical fund. The current system has some short comings that need to be addressed and Mother Tracy will work with Madison to correct the sound and visual

issues. Funding this position from sabbatical funds takes money from the wrong place and a separate account for this position will be part of the 2023 budget. Broadcasting Services online that are attractive and engaging will take a more holistic approach to our equipment and process and these changes will be addressed in 2023. Jon called the question, seconded by Win and that passed 7 to 0. We then approved the proposal to continue funding this position (7 to 0) from Sabbatical funds through the end of the year.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

- John Melvin was invited to provide an update to the Vestry regarding Endowment funds. All of these funds are invested with the Episcopal Church Foundation.
  - Church Endowment: This fund is owned by St John's and does not operate like a true endowment. It is used more like a savings account to hold gifts received by the church. How this fund is used is directed by the Vestry.
  - ACYP Endowment: This fund was endowed by the Rebeles and St John's is the custodian. It does not operate like a true endowment because its primary objective is to fund ACYP as long as money is available. The funding available each year for ACYP is determined by a formula for as long as the money lasts.
  - Mikkelsen Trust #1: This is a true endowment that is owned by the trust and not by the church. St. John's is the custodian of this Trust. There are designated gifts specified in this trust to be made each year from its earnings that include a scholarship amount that may be adjusted to stay above the corpus.
  - Mikkelsen Trust #2 This is a true endowment that is owned by the trust and not by the church. St. John's is the custodian of this Trust. The proceeds from this endowment are used to pay for a curate position at St. John's. A curate may be hired when the account has enough funds to cover two years of salary and expenses for a curate. When a curate is hired, a separate budget will be established to manage the funds.
- Homeless Housing Dates: St. John's will continue hosting the homeless on Saturday nights. The Altar Guild will set up for the 8:00 AM Sunday service on Saturday afternoon and is asking those staying there not to use the stage area. Hosting every Saturday night gives us the option to occasionally ask that AFC find a different location should we need the facility for a special event.
- Next Steps regarding Campus Development: We are still in discernment about what steps we should take to best understand and use the incredible information collected and documented by the DSC. The DSC and the Vestry will work together to outline these possible steps and Vestry will determine what that step will be with DSC advise. To kick this off, Win will write a letter to the Discernment Steering Committee proposing possible steps as we zero in on the action that seems best for all of us.

#### **INFORMATION:**

- Diocesan Convention and Update: The convention was held via zoom on November 8<sup>th</sup> and our delegates were Jane Dawson, Robin Gaither, Barbara Raney and Susan Von

Schmacht. We used the VPOLL system for voting on the issues and for candidates and the system worked very well. Some of the issues we approved include the following:

- The convention approved a proposal to establish a fact-finding task force to recognize indigenous peoples who once occupied the diocese's various properties and report to the 2023 diocesan convention.
  - The convention approved a proposal to study Diocesan Deaneries. A study group will be recruited that will report to the 2024 convention.
  - The convention approved an increase in the minimum clergy compensation.
  - Other work included approval of the diocesan budget and changes to the Constitution and Canons.
- Replace Building Backflow System: This system is causing water pressure problems in the building and needs to be replaced. We are seeking a quote from a licensed contractor.
  - Defective Door Locks: Two door lock system need to be repaired. A security company will make these repairs as soon as they have all of the parts.

#### **REPORT OUT:**

- The Helpful Shop has appointed a Grants Committee consisting of Dan Atwell, Margy Cottle, Loris Gielczyk, Jacklyn Johnston, and Jackie Vischer.
- The Vestry Nomination Committee has nominated people to join the vestry next year and those names will be released soon.
- St. John's has agreed to continue hosting the homeless in our facility Saturday nights.
- The media technician is funded through the end of the year.
- The Vestry is extremely pleased with the work of the Discernment Steering Committee and we are working together define the next steps based on the DSC report.

#### **EVALUATION:**

- We are all happy that Mother Tracy is back.
- We flowed well through the agenda.
- Question Asked, "Why do we give reports with out taking action?"

Win closed the meeting with a prayer and we adjourned at 8:44 PM

**Special Note:** All documents reference in this report were made available to Vestry members before the Vestry meeting and are available upon request by email to the Rector or Wardens.

Respectfully submitted,

Win Fernald