

St. John's Episcopal Church, Tower Grove

Vestry Meeting Minutes for March 22, 2024 @ 7:00 PM via Zoom

In attendance: Rev. Nancy Emmel Gunn, Liam Clements, Jonathan Cureton, Ronya McCool, Correne Murphy, Mary Anne Pikrone

Absent: Ann Balsamo, Dr. Jeffrey Carter; Liam will update

Opening Prayer, Nancy Emmel Gunn

Declaration of a Quorum and Reminder of Behavioral Covenant, Nancy Emmel Gunn
This meeting was postponed from Sunday, March 18 due to the absence of a quorum.

Appreciations

- Rev. Erin Pickersgill as visiting preacher
- Jonathan, Christine C, and the Halls for Lenten prayer & soup dinner

Accept minutes from February 2024 meeting

Mary Anne motioned to approve, seconded by Jonathan. Motion passes unanimously.

Check in

Voluntary report from various vestry members on respective spiritual and physical well-being

Committee Updates

- **Buildings and Grounds (Liam/Nancy)**
 - Members are bidding out rewiring the church. Replace knob and tube wiring and replace or upgrade non-grounded wires and receptacles. Phase 1 study & tracing of all wiring and line diagram with recommendations about what to replace/leave alone will cost \$2000 or less; Phase 2, or actual construction, estimated at \$8000.
 - Parish Cleanup workday scheduled for Saturday, April 13 from 9:00-12:00; B&G is identifying things to fix like entryway to parish hall and plumbing in men's restroom
 - Brick for vestibule to be replaced by Gary
- **Communications (Ronya)**
 - Meet on or near every 2nd Sunday of the month; Jeff and Ronya will refresh the church website and Jeff is developing a schedule for updating ministries/pieces of website; the committee started with Pride and plan to streamline committees/ministries as updated.
- **Worship (Jonathan)**
 - Preparation for Easter Sunday and Holy Week (Jonathan)—Palm Sunday, choir, and collaborated with Joseph on Easter Sunday program

Peace Meal Report (Liam; Hannah Harkey)

- Peace Meal received fewer funds from diocese; Hannah Harkey is connecting with the diocese for more information and to get copy of grant application
- Hannah and Scott Splater are reaching out to other congregations for Peace Meal fundraising and will next attend Church of St. Michael's and St. George for Easter egg hunt.
- Hannah has coordinated de-escalation training w/ Mark Brennan for Peace Meal volunteers
- Peace Meal will experiment with a return to coordinating indoor dining; Hannah, Scott, or Nancy will verify any news.
- Stove has been procured—we agreed earlier to pay for half. Needs minimal work on hood, but need bids for installation—alley door is too narrow.

Momentum from Vestry retreat and Who what when team

- Senior Warden Liam is reaching out to members to keep up the momentum from the vestry retreat. Vestry discussed how to streamline of committees.
- Numerous proposals have asked for a Vestry workday to discuss how to move forward. Next vestry meeting, April 21, will be a workday.
- Communicate to other vestry members to identify candidates for vestry & coordinate amongst ourselves as we approach.

Election of Paul Freeman

Paul visited our February 18, 2024, meeting to consider filling Margarita's unexpired term. Two years remaining. Ronya motions to elect Paul Freeman to vestry; Jonathan seconds, and vestry votes unanimously.

Financials for February 2024 – Nancy Emmel Gunn

- Need for new bookkeeper
- Not a lot of new info except on profit and loss statement; income is \$2336 toward end of 1st quarter.
- We have spent 28% on gas which is 12% over what was budgeted for 2-3 months into the year.

Priest's Report – Nancy Emmel Gunn

- Nancy out of town April 7; Warren Crews will preach.
- Parish work day, April 13, coordinated by Rodney
- Youth Group – discouraging process; candidate withdrew; Rev. Nancy and Erin Pikersgill have been in conversation about ways to move forward/include other congregations.
- Ash Wednesday and Holy Week – Ash Wednesday at Presbyterian/Maundy Thursday at UCC/bulletin awaiting music
- Visit from Rev. Erin Pikersgill who will return in June
- Grand piano; insurance issue; grand piano moved in last Thursday, tuned Sunday am for service. Rev. Nancy and Liam will explore informing insurance
- Acquiring Quick Books online/cloud based financial programs

Loose Ends

Possibility of implementing Square on website for donations

Reminder of Next Meeting Dates – Nancy Emmel Gunn

- Next Vestry meeting: April 21*
- Executive Committee: April 17 Zoom 7pm*
 - Additional Vestry member present: Jeffrey Carter*

Closing Prayer

Meeting adjourns, 8:15 pm