

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
October 16, 2022

Vestry Present: Penny Bailey, John Bellamy, Luke Carter, Brianne Clifton, Joe Ley, James Little, Peter Platzer, Katelyn Printz, Becky Schamore, Matt Smith, Susan Stevenson.

Vestry Absent: Alan Ragsdale.

Others Attending: Kathy Richards (Treasurer), Johnny Tuttle (Rector).

A regular meeting of St. Paul's Vestry was held October 16, 2022 and called to order at 11:50 a.m. by Johnny Tuttle, Rector. Johnny began the meeting with a formation discussion.

I. Consent Agenda

The consent agenda consisted of the September financial statements and September 18, 2022 minutes. The consent agenda was approved on a motion by Peter Platzer, duly seconded, and following discussion of the financial statements, unanimously approved. Kathy Richards also noted that the audit of the 2021 financial statements had been completed with no material findings or observations.

II. Food Pantry Discussion

Johnny Tuttle led a discussion on Chris Harpster's email message regarding escalating costs to the food pantry. A primary driver of these increased costs is the significant increase to costs of food, including the food purchased from Second Harvest Food Bank. There was discussion about previous years' budgets for the food pantry and other topics, such as what food types help our guests most, the loss of USDA support, and related issues. There was general agreement that Kathy would move the costs of wi-fi from the Food Pantry budget and include those costs in the general telephone and internet account of the church. There was also a consensus that the church could ask parishioners to purchase shelf items (e.g., dish detergent, laundry detergent, and toiletries) instead of the church purchasing them. Johnny will speak with Chris more about potential cost saving measures.

III. Information

1. Johnny Tuttle noted the following:

- a) Johnny will have confirmation/Christianity 101 classes on October 26 and November 2, 9 and 16.
- b) There will be another game night on October 30 at 6:00 p.m.
- c) He needs about 6 people to serve as Companions in Discernment for the two folks discerning ordination.

- d) The 2023 Diocese Convention will be hosted by St. John's in Johnson City and other churches in upper east Tennessee will assist.
 - e) There will be more activities for the EYC, especially in connection with St. John's.
 - f) The Christmas Dinner will be in person in Berndt Hall and Chris Harpster will be seeking volunteers.
 - g) There will be baptisms on October 30 and January 8.
2. John Bellamy reported on two grants awarded to the Day School. The funds for the first grant have been received and required, among other things, payment to full time and part time employees. Timing on receipt of the second grant is unknown. John also reported the expectation of where the Day School would finish the year financially.
 3. John Bellamy and Johnny Tuttle reported that the dwarf Japanese red maples in the columbarium had been removed (with much work) because the trees were not as healthy as we would like and the root systems were too invasive for the space. A group of people are considering shrub and ornamental options for the space.
 4. Luke Carter discussed issues has confronted in securing bids for the nave HVAC work. Some companies have declined to bid because of space constraints. Luke has additional leads he is exploring.

IV. Discussion

Johnny Tuttle led an extended of attendance at church post pandemic. There was much analysis about numbers of attendance, what those numbers mean, and what the numbers do not mean. The Vestry discussed their views of what drives attendance at church in the post pandemic world and what it means to be a member of St. Paul's to people. John Bellamy observed that he and Father Johnny had been considering what might be done as part of the annual parish meeting to understand our practices, missions, and/or attendance better instead of merely publishing financial reports and attendance data. There was a general consensus that the parish as a whole could somehow be invited or involved more in what is presented or comes out of the annual parish meeting.

V. Dismissal

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Todd Dougan, Vestry Clerk