

# St. John's Episcopal Church

## Vestry Meeting

August 8, 2022 7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom  
Minutes

1. 7:00 pm – Opening Prayer

Attendance: Fr. Adam Trambley, Missy Baron, John Kachursky, Augie Santillo, Tracy Schliep, Madge Tamber, Becky Yoho, and Vicki Barletta

2. 7:05 pm – Review of Minutes (6/12/22) and Special Meeting Minutes (6/26/22)

Minutes for both of these meetings were unanimously accepted on the motion of Tracy, seconded by Madge.

3. 7:07 pm – Financial Topics

Treasurer's Report

A withdrawal was made from our investment distributions in order to facilitate cash flow. Our Year-to-Date numbers are down approximately \$40,000 so for the remainder of this year we will need to keep a close watch on disbursements.

There were questions on the large gas bill. It may just reflect the spike in energy prices, but we will check into it further.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously on a motion by Madge with a second by Becky.

4. 7:11 pm – Building Issues

There has been no word from Jesse Fiske re: beginning the floor work in the sanctuary.

Fr Adam has had a conversation with Leon, our part-time Sexton, regarding some issues with the quality of care of the building and grounds. At this point in time, we do not have the funds to hire someone in a full-time Sexton position.

There was a discussion regarding the ongoing issue of building security and what our next steps should be. We want to feel prepared for a potential threat to our congregation but not at the expense of being unable to welcome visitors. Fr Adam provided links to "The Power of Hello Guide For Houses of Worship" (a CISA publication) and also to "Mitigating Attacks" (a much lengthier publication from Homeland Security).

Everyone agreed that it would be best to open a dialogue with concerned parishioners before making decisions on next steps. There are plans now to set a date for a special Q & A type of in-person meeting that would be made available to parishioners and would let us know who is really interested enough to show up and what resources and ideas we have in our congregation. Fr Adam will be setting that date in the next couple of weeks.

5. 7:35 pm – Pandemic Issues/Questions

Because the CDC COVID Community Level for Mercer County is currently HIGH, we will need to reassess our situation and make any appropriate changes that are needed. Our policy has been to follow CDC guidance. The biggest risks appear to be surrounding congregational singing and the Coffee Hour social time. Using the CDC Guidelines, we will recommend masking and social distancing and hand-washing, but they will not be mandated. We will also continue to offer the common cup at the Eucharist. People may choose to receive or not. Allen Hall will be open for meetings, but not yet for social events.

6. 8:00 pm – Other items

\* General Convention Update. It was a COVID-necessitated, abbreviated version but very intense. Some of the topics explored were:

A review of how the Episcopal church benefitted from the slave trade.

A review of church-run boarding schools that were for indigenous children.

Exploratory steps in the next BCP revision.

Election of a new President of the House of Deputies.

\* Anti-racism initiatives in parish. We now have an anti-discrimination petition in the Prayers of the People. Also, after Laura Peretic's presentation to the congregation regarding the Diocesan program on Dismantling Racism, there were 3 parishioners who expressed interest – all new to St. John's. There is also information regarding this program being added to the weekly parish newsletter.

\* Worship/Music for fall. Fr Adam and Ron are busy working on programming for the coming months. There may be a new iteration of choir on the horizon since it has been sorely missed.

There are 2 weddings and 3 baptisms planned for September and early October.

Sunday School/Christian Ed. might be on hiatus since the current response has been very hit and miss.

\* Preschool initiative. Fr Adam has a meeting with Dr. April Torrence tomorrow, 8-9-22, to continue the planning stages for a preschool serving families in Hermitage, New Castle and Sharon.

7. 8:10 pm – Elect Deputies to Diocesan Convention

Diocesan Convention is Fri/Sat, October 28-29, 2022, in Niagra Falls. Our Deputies will be Becky, John and Madge with Augie, Donna and Tracy serving as Alternates.

8. 8:15 pm – Upcoming Vestry Meetings

Next Vestry Meeting will be Monday, September 12, 2022, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

9. 8:30 pm – Meeting adjourned on motion by Madge, seconded by Becky.

Respectfully submitted,  
Victoria Barletta