

2023 January Vestry Minutes

January 19, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Susan Newkirk

Present: Pam Borden, Jim Connors, Lynette Cunningham, Frank Dickinson, Kris Gregory, Gail Harrison, Steve Lombardi, Debbie Luchka, Rev. Johanna Marcure, Donna Martel, Susan Newkirk, Megan Picozzi, Richard Shurtleff,

Excused: Cindy Chatell

Guests: Steve Brannigan

Opening Prayer: Rev. Johanna Marcure

Vestry Minutes:

The December 15, 2022 meeting minutes were reviewed. The following items were identified for change: Page 2, Finance Committee Report – change the word regularity to regularly.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 15, 2022 minutes with spelling edit. All agreed, no opposed.

December 2022 Treasurer Report – Donna Martel

- Office/AV Equipment: Question arose on why line item was over budget. It was noted funds authorized in 2021 to install AV equipment should have been set aside at the end of 2021 and were not. When the bill was received the funds were not available and had to be charged to the 2022 budget.
- Supply Organist : Line item is considerably over budget. It was noted this expense was due to the organist being on unpaid sick leave. The overage is offset with the funds not paid to the organist, as her leave was unpaid. See Payroll line item on page 6.

A motion moved by Rick Shurtleff and seconded by Pam Borden to accept the December 2022 Treasurer's Report for Audit. All agreed, no opposed.

Request to move funds from the Operating checking to the Restricted checking account/sub-accounts was made as follows:

- Move \$800.00 to the restricted Capital Improvement Fund.
- Move \$500.00 to the restricted Sabbatical Fund.

A motion moved by Rick Shurtleff and seconded by Lynette Cunningham to move funds from the operating checking to the restricted checking account as proposed. All agreed, no opposed.

Property Committee Report:

- Snow Removal Contract: Rick Shurtleff advised he is still waiting to hear back from the vendor regarding the cost to add shoveling to the snow removal contract. Concern was expressed about not having a signed contract during these winter months.

Motion made by J. Connors and seconded to expedite the process of getting a signed contract, a recommendation was made to have the Executive Committee vote on the contract once it is received. All agreed, no opposed.

- Sign/Insurance Claim Update: Susan Newkirk advised the materials used in the original sign are no longer available in the size that would be needed. Bids are being obtained for signs made from other materials.

Nominating Committee Report:

Rev. Johanna thanked outgoing Vestry members for their service. In addition, she noted the current Sr. Warden and Jr. Warden have agreed to serve another year and that Henry Dziadosz, will serve as the new treasurer. Renee Melaragno has agreed to serve as Clerk of the Vestry. Both Henry and Renee have experience in the positions they will be serving in. Candidates being nominated for Vestry positions are: Eric Peterson, Jon Roberts. and Sara Schwartz.

Stewardship Report:

It was noted we currently have 84 pledges totaling \$194,428.

Finance Committee Report:

- 2023 Proposed Budget: The proposed budget was reviewed. The following recommendations and clarifications and were made:
 - It was noted the Amazon Smile program will no longer be available as of February 2023.
 - Grants: The art festival grant paperwork was submitted.
 - Thrift Shop: Clarification was given on two budget request items from the Thrift shop. The items were not approved due to the availability of space and the process of managing donations received.

- Under Building & Grounds the words “& Landscape” will be removed from Grounds Maintenance.
- Utilities/Electric: P. Borden volunteered to call R.I. Energy to see if there are any discount programs offered to non-profit organizations that may help defray our utility costs.
- Utilities/Electric: It was requested “Parish Life” be added to the “hall” line item.

Motion made by Kris Gregory and seconded by Jim Connors to accept the 2023 Proposed Budget as presented. All agreed, no opposed.

Additional Finance Committee Recommendations:

- Appreciation gift for Rector: In support of requests made at the 2022 annual meeting, the committee proposed giving Rev. Johanna a gift of \$3000 (net) to acknowledge all the work she does in her role as Rector, and to acknowledge her deep commitment to serving this community.

Motion made by Kris Gregory and seconded by Lynette Cunningham to give Rev. Johanna a gift of appreciation in the net amount of \$3000. All agreed, no opposed.

- Compensation for Rabbi Joe Murray: The Finance Committee recommended Rabbi Joe be compensated \$600.00 for the preaching he did at services in 2022 when Rev. Johanna was away.

Motion made by Kris Gregory and seconded by Lynette Cunningham to give Rabbi Joe Murray a gift of appreciation in the net amount of \$600. All agreed, no opposed.

- The Finance Committee also recommended we compensate Rabbi Joe Murray in the future, at the rate of \$150.00 for weekends he preaches when Rev. Johanna is away.

Motion made by Kris Gregory and seconded by Pam Borden to compensate Rabbi Joe Murray \$150 for weekends he preaches when Rev. Johanna is away. All agreed, no opposed.

- Appreciation Gift for Rabbi Joe Murray: The Finance Committee recommended giving Rabbi Joe an appreciation gift in the amount of \$1000. 00 in support of the work he does with Sunday morning bible study.

Motion made by Kris Gregory and seconded by Pam Borden to give Rabbi Joe Murray a gift of appreciation in the net amount of \$1000.00 in support of the work he does with Sunday morning bible study. All agreed, no opposed.

- Parish Sponsored Event access: The Finance Committee recommended the rector and spouse will be invited to attend all parish events at no charge.

Motion made by Kris Gregory and seconded by Pam Borden to allow the rector and spouse to attend all parish events at no charge. All agreed, no opposed.

Communications:

- Rev. Johanna informed the vestry a Release and Removal Notice was received from the Diocese regarding a clergy person who moved out of the country 10 years ago.
- Dinner and Show: Rev. Johanna reminded Vestry members that on March 3, 2023, David Kane will be providing a comedy show immediately following a parish dinner of ham, potatoes, and vegetables, along with ice cream as a dessert.
- Overnight Vestry Retreat: Rev. Johanna reminded everyone of the overnight Vestry Retreat scheduled for March 10th and 11th at the Episcopal Conference Center. All vestry members are expected to attend.
- Welcome Definition: Rev. Johanna proposed a definition of what it is to be welcoming. There was an overall consensus to use the proposed definition.

A motion was moved by Rick Shurtleff and seconded by Pam Borden that the following mission statement be adopted: *We welcome, inspire, strengthen, and encourage one another and others to love and serve God's beloved community.* The motion was unanimously approved.

Meeting ended at 8:20 pm with a final blessing.