

St. John's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting

April 12, 2021 7:30-8:40 pm via Zoom
Minutes

1. 7:00 pm - Opening Prayer (with Parish)

Attendance: Fr. Adam Trambley, Melissa Baron, Donna Billioni, Ron Gracilla, Barb Lipinski, Augie Santillo, Tracy Schliep, Donna Stamoolis, Vicki Barletta.

2. 7:30 pm - Review of Minutes

Minutes for the 3-8-21 Vestry meeting were unanimously accepted on the motion of Donna S., seconded by Barb.

3. 7:35 pm - Financial Topics

Treasurer's Report

Donna S, Treasurer, reported that the main checking account has a healthy balance as do the investment accounts; our finances continue to do well. Pledge income is still down somewhat but not significantly. Gas expense is a little high due to the sanctuary work, but the budget amounts are on track almost to the penny. The bookkeeping errors are still showing up on the balance sheets, so Donna S. will check with Tina to try to make the corrections.

The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously on the motion by Donna B. with a second by Tracy.

Housing Allowance Resolution

***Whereas**, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC § 107) permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income (in computing federal income taxes) a church-designated allowance paid to him as part of his compensation to the extent used by him for actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and*

***Whereas**, The Reverend Adam T. Trambley is compensated by St. John's Church exclusively for the services as a minister of the gospel; and*

***Whereas**, St. John's Church does not provide Reverend Adam T. Trambley with a rectory. Therefore, it is hereby:*

***Resolved**, that the compensation paid to Reverend Adam T. Trambley from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 shall be \$87,305.00 of which \$25,781.00 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance;*

And be it further:

***Resolved**, that in all future years, \$25,781.00 of Reverend Adam T. Trambley's compensation shall be designated as a housing allowance unless otherwise provided.*

Fr. Adam gave a brief explanation of the Housing Allowance Resolution. The Vestry approves these amounts of compensation annually, effectively setting the amount of housing allowance that is used for tax purposes. The 2021 allowance is \$25,781.00.

The Housing Allowance Resolution was passed unanimously on a motion by Tracy, seconded by Donna S.

4. 7:40 pm - Building Issues

Updates on Sanctuary Renovation

Fr. Adam reported that the plaster work and painting should be finished by this Wednesday, 4-14-21. The final 30% payment for this work will then be due.

The cleaning work on the reredos will probably take another month to complete, but it has been started and is making a startling difference!

Fr. Adam and Barb visited the flooring place and explored some options. It has been suggested that if we are thinking of using carpeting plus some other form of hard flooring, more extensive measuring will need to be done. This is now being planned. Also, some possibilities to make corrections to the sagging floor in front of the choir are being pondered. After the protective plastic in the sanctuary has been removed it will be easier to assess the extent of the corrections needed. An estimate of the timeline from ordering the flooring to installation is about 8 weeks.

There was a question about the maintenance of the landscaping on the church grounds. There is no agreement with anyone to do this ongoing work. Donna B. suggested that we look into "Pathstones," an organization that helps clients 55 years and older who are interested in working part-time jobs. Vestry indicated that this might be an option.

The freezer in the kitchen has failed again. It has been repaired twice, but is 15 years old, and it appears that we need to replace it. Barb reported that a replacement has been purchased, and we are waiting for it to be delivered. Initial cost estimates are \$3,675 + \$75 to dispose of the old freezer. The Family Kitchen and the Episcopal Church Women are both contributing \$1000 toward the new one. That would leave \$1,750 for us to pay, suggested to come from unrestricted memorials. The unanimous decision to go ahead with this purchase was reached via an e-vote that occurred on 4-1-21.

5. 8:00 pm - Reopening Questions

There have been increasing requests to be able to again worship in the sanctuary, but at this point in time there are many pandemic issues to consider. In addition, the renovation work being done in the sanctuary has precluded in-person worship being conducted there. However, with the painting and plastering work now being completed and with the guidance of the Diocesan Reopening Guidelines, we may be able to begin making some tentative steps toward that goal. Therefore, beginning on 5-2-21, we will make an 8:00 am sanctuary service available. We will maintain 25% occupancy, mandatory face masks, social distancing, no singing. And communion will consist of bread only and will probably be distributed as people are leaving. As we go forward with the renovation projects there will possibly be Sundays where sanctuary worship will not be possible. At the same time, we will continue the 10:00 am Sunday Parking Lot services that are also streamed on FB Live as they have been a successful option with more people driving in (not even counting those that participate on-line) than would be allowed in the sanctuary. We will continue to consider all the options of a hybrid model as we progress through the pandemic.

6. 8:25 pm - Thoughts about Stress/Trauma/Resiliency

As we gradually move closer to a time when we can be together in a manner that seems more normal, we are going to be faced with many decisions that will require creative thinking and prayer and probably some daring problem-solving. There will, without a doubt, be a period stretching into years involving "recovery." It will be stressful! Fr. Adam stated that having a presenter come in to spend a day with our parish family discussing these issues might be something to consider. No decision was reached at this meeting. Tracy also has concerns for the extraordinary expectations that are being placed on Fr. Adam and Ron during this time. They have promised to come to the Vestry if/when they become overwhelmed.

7. 8:35 pm - Other

Donna B. mentioned that we might also think about scheduling a retreat at an alternate location such as the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration outside of Ellwood City. The Vestry will take this under consideration.

8. 8:40 pm - Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm, on motion by Donna B., seconded by Donna S.

Next Vestry meeting is May 10, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Barletta