

St. John's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

September 12, 2022 7:00-8:30 pm via Zoom
Minutes

1. 7:00 pm – Opening Prayer

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

2. 7:05 pm – Review of Minutes

Minutes for the 8-8-22 Vestry meeting were unanimously accepted on the motion of Tracy, seconded by Missy.

3. 7:10 pm – Financial Topics

Treasurer's Report

An Endowment transfer of \$62,836 was made but is not reflected in the financial report. Also, Payroll from the end of August is not included in this month's report.

The markets are very volatile at this time, so it is difficult to see very far into the future. The Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously on a motion by Madge with a second by Vicki.

4. 7:15 pm – Building Issues

The floor work in the sanctuary being done by Jesse Fiske is now finished and paid for. The next step is deciding when and how to move forward with the plans for new flooring. We had already received some quotes (which are now a couple of years old). However, they did not include restoring the present wood floor. Marett Carpet One from Volant has already done measurements. Fr Adam, along with Barb had begun exploring options. It seems like the next piece will be to look more closely at the possible choices and weigh the pros and cons for sound quality, safety, and financial feasibility issues.

5. 7:25 pm – Pandemic Issues/Questions

Because the CDC COVID Community Level for Mercer County is currently MEDIUM, 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 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.

The new COVID/Omicron boosters are becoming available. Tracy will provide the information for the newsletter and bulletins.

6. 7:35 pm – Security Discussion

A Security Q & A in-person meeting, open to parishioners, was held in Allen Hall on Tuesday, 8-30-22, at 7:00 pm. 14 people (including all of the members of the Vestry) were in attendance. Many thoughts and concerns were shared. A surprising observation was that people seemed not to be concerned so much about "safety" as they were about people "hanging out" at the church building for unknown purposes.

Some suggestions involve more recruitment and focused preparedness training for ushers and

greeters. A resource that we currently have is the “OHNO” training which stands for Observe, Hello, Navigate the risk and Obtain help.

It was felt that offering a training for parishioners would probably not bring out many additional people beyond those already seated at the table. However, a sermon with some basic safety facts and solutions or responses might necessarily involve more hearers. Then offering a short “Basic Training” for parishioners might be effective.

7. 7:45 pm – Preschool Update

Dr. April Torrence, Owner and Operator of Zion Preschool in Farrell, has begun working about 5 hours a week with us as a consultant for this project. She has done site visits to Resurrection in Hermitage, Trinity in New Castle, and St. John’s here in Sharon. Of the 3, Dr. Torrence thinks that St. John’s has the most potential for the development of a successful preschool/daycare facility based on the positioning of Allen Hall with the kitchen and the basement area. Jesse Fiske has recommended an architectural firm that he has worked with, and a representative will be at St. John’s tomorrow, 9-13-22, to do a walk-thru and present a proposal for transforming the current spaces into a preschool/daycare environment. The Diocese is currently green-lighting this project.

There seem to be resources in many places, and a Fall 2023 launch is not unreasonable.

8. 8:00 pm – Rector Updates

There is currently a Diocesan discussion regarding a possible regional cooperation effort that would facilitate a shared handling of tasks such as administration, communication, and office presence between the parishes of Resurrection Hermitage, Trinity New Castle, and St. John’s Sharon.

At the present time we are not going to institute an additional weekday service. Ron is continuing to offer Noonday Prayer Monday through Friday via the Facebook stream.

The parents of Sunday School age children will be meeting with Laura and Sherri towards the end of September to consider options for continuing Christian Ed for children.

There has been some interest in the parish to again read specific names of people needing prayers during Prayers of the People. This practice is happening at the 8:00 service but probably will not be restarted at the 10:00 service because it is being live-streamed over Facebook.

There are several more Weddings and Baptisms being planned between now and December.

* Executive Session for a personnel issue.

8:25 pm – Next Vestry Meeting will be Monday, October 10, 2022, at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Barletta