

**Church of St. John the Evangelist  
Flossmoor, Illinois**

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting  
March 18, 2020**

**Evening Prayer and Attendance**

Due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, evening prayer was canceled and vestry met via a Zoom videoconference. At 7:05, Fr. Jeremy Froyen called the vestry meeting to order. Members present via videoconference were Fr. Jeremy Froyen (rector), junior warden Eric Turnquest, Bill Moser, Tonya Eisenberg, Candice Barrera, Kathy Basil, Chris Pfeifer, treasurers Laura Brady and Debbi Huggett, Rob McManamy, senior warden Donna Blackburn, and clerk Tracie Moxley. Not present: Mike Madden and Noboru Nakamura.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

Bill Moser recommended one correction to the February minutes and then moved to accept the minutes. Rob McManamy seconded; the motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Debbi Huggett explained that because it's so early in the year there really is not much to report. Pledged giving is slightly ahead of schedule. With church buildings being closed, Fr. Jeremy plans to send an email reminding people that the bills of the church don't stop even though we cannot meet together. Parishioners have the option of sending a check or paying online through a link on the website.

Bishop Lee told the diocese that if parishes need to cut their diocesan pledge during this time, they should do so.

Donna Blackburn moved to accept the Treasurer's report, and Bill Moser seconded. The motion passed.

**Rector's Report**

Fr. Jeremy reported on a conference call with the Bishop. All churches are closed until further notice and will not reopen until the end of April at the earliest. We need to start getting word out that Holy Week and Easter services will not be held in person. Fr. Jeremy will be looking into creative ways to celebrate Easter together. We will celebrate Easter the first Sunday we can meet together again.

Groups that rent space in churches can still use the buildings – it's up to those groups to cancel.

Eric Turnquest is looking into the ability to live stream from inside the church. The hope is that by Easter, we can live-stream some sort of service. If anybody has expertise, please reach out to Eric.

Fr. Jeremy is considering doing a Eucharist in the church live-streamed with just a few people, and then offering communion on the church steps for a period of time afterwards. If anyone wants to come by, they can.

This coming Sunday, we'll do morning prayer together, then the Bishop is leading worship from St. James Cathedral. Fr. Jeremy will send the link.

Fr. Jeremy asked everyone to remember that the building isn't the church – we are. We need to reach out to each other and keep in touch with friends and neighbors. If anyone becomes aware of a pastoral care need, please let Fr. Jeremy know. Keep our people in your prayers.

A call list was distributed to vestry members. Fr. Jeremy asked vestry members to reach out to the folks on the list – let them know we're calling on behalf of the church and find out if they have any urgent needs that we might be able to help with. Call once a week for the next couple weeks, particularly the house bound, to remind people we are still a community. If anyone has other ideas about how to be a community without being physically together, please share them.

### **Senior Warden's Report**

Donna Blackburn had no report.

### **Junior Warden's Report**

Eric will be walking through the church periodically to make sure everything is okay. If you are there and see something amiss, please let him know. He is exploring the option of expanding WiFi to the sanctuary.

### **Long Range Planning Committee Report** (submitted)

A one question questionnaire will be going out in the next couple days – a question about vision.

### **Finance Committee Report**

No report, but there's a resolution.

### **Communications Committee**

No report.

### **Old Business**

Music Director search update – we had one candidate coming on as an interim. He cannot wait while we're not offering services so he's going to start looking for a job.

Fr. Jeremy will distribute information this week to those vestry members that need to complete the *Safeguarding God's People* training.

Ministry Continuity Policy - Bill Moser moved to accept the policy for continuing ministry in the event of a pastoral emergency and Kathy Basil seconded. The motion passed.

### **New Business**

Parish & Diocesan Response to Covid-19 – see above.

Certification of Lay Delegates – Laura Brady moved to accept the certification of delegates to the Special Electing Convention on June 20, 2020. Bill Moser seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Finance Committee Resolution – currently all parish accounts are at First Midwest Bank where they earn no interest. The Finance Committee is recommending we move the accounts to Chase Bank because they can earn interest. Interest rates are down due to the chaos surrounding Covid-19 so the change won't happen right now, but Fr. Jeremy would like approval to make the change once rates go back up. Kathy Basil moved to accept the recommendation to change banks, and Tonya Eisenberg seconded. The motion passed.

Resolution regarding Rector Housing Allowance – the Resolution regarding Rector Housing Allowance has to be approved each year for tax purposes; It designates a percentage of the priest's salary as housing allowance. Donna Blackburn moved to accept the resolution, Rob McManamy seconded. The motion passed.

Annual Parochial Report – Fr. Jeremy summarized the Parochial Report. Membership on the rolls decreased to 184 active members. The number has been inflated for many years as people were not taken off when they became inactive. With the effort to be more accurate, the number has decreased. Bill Moser moved to accept the parochial report and Donna Blackburn seconded. The motion passed.

#### **Other Business**

Rob McManamy asked Laura Brady to give an update on PADS. Laura reported that she heard south suburban PADS hoped to host clients in hotels, but she hasn't heard anything since. They had asked people to donate toward that effort.

#### **Adjournment**

Bill Moser moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm and Donna Blackburn seconded. The motion passed. The next regular vestry meeting is scheduled for April 15, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracie Moxley  
Clerk of the Vestry