

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

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting  
May 20, 2020**

**Evening Prayer and Attendance**

Vestry met via a Zoom videoconference because of the extended coronavirus shelter-in-place order. At 7:06, Fr. Jeremy Froyen called the vestry meeting to order. Members present via videoconference were Fr. Jeremy Froyen (rector), junior warden Eric Turnquest, senior warden Donna Blackburn, Chris Pfeifer, Kathy Basil, Bill Moser, Noboru Nakamura, Tonya Eisenberg, Mike Madden, Rob McManamy, treasurers Laura Brady and Debbi Huggett, Deacon Mike Bond, and clerk Tracie Moxley.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

Bill Moser moved to accept the April vestry minutes and Eric Turnquest seconded. The motion passed.

**Co-Treasurer's Report**

Laura Brady reported that St. John's is running ahead on pledge and non-pledge payments, though other revenues are down. Expenses are generally running below budget. The parish received donations for the memorial and columbarium funds. The reports included with the Treasurer's Report are the first reports from the new Realm software, so Laura asked everyone to let her know if there are questions or different reports/information that would be helpful.

Donna Blackburn moved to accept the Treasurer's Report and after a second by Bill Moser, the motion passed.

**Rector's Report**

Fr. Jeremy reported on the weekly bishop's call. As of June 1, the diocese will move into Phase 3 of the governor's plan to reopen Illinois. In Phase 3, gatherings are allowed of no more than 10 people. Fr. Jeremy plans to meet with the Worship & Liturgy committee to discuss reopening. We will likely continue with virtual worship through Phase 3 with a new format of recording the service during the week (and allowing lectors to come during the week to record). The first Sunday with virtual worship in this new format will be June 7. After meeting with the Worship & Liturgy committee, Fr. Jeremy will distribute the reopening plan to vestry via email in the next week or two for everyone to comment. Once a plan has been approved, it will be sent to the bishop's office as mandated.

Fr. Jeremy has spoken with Monica about deep cleaning and sanitizing the church building as required by the bishop's office. She is coming on May 31 to deep clean. The church office will be reopening for Phase 3, but the hours have yet to be determined.

The search for the music director is on hold for now as singing will not be allowed in church until Phase 5, when a vaccine is readily available and a critical mass has been vaccinated.

The Discretionary Fund has over \$4,000 in contributions. In the past month, a little over \$1,000 was disbursed. Fr. Jeremy sent a Good Friday donation from the Discretionary Fund to St. George's in Jerusalem in lieu of the usual Good Friday offering.

The Thursday evening Bible study is going well. Fr. Jeremy has had requests to continue holding it online even after reopening the parish.

The youth group met on Zoom and youth made the decision to continue meeting monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for June 7.

As previously communicated, the bishop's election has been postponed and is now scheduled to be held during diocesan convention. The diocese is trying to figure out if a virtual election is allowable and possible. The search committee is hoping to bring candidates to Chicago for a discernment retreat in September.

Fr. Jeremy enrolled in the D.Min. program at Bexley Seabury Seminary beginning in June. The degree is a 3 year commitment and will involve an in-depth congregational study to see how the local church needs to be adapting to changing realities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. To help offset the cost of seminary, Fr. Jeremy requested an increase in the continuing education budget from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Bill Moser moved to increase the budget to \$3,000 and Rob McManamy seconded. Donna Blackburn amended the motion that the increase be approved for 3 years. The amended motion passed.

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

Nothing to report.

#### **Junior Warden's Report/Buildings and Grounds Report**

Update – The Buildings and Grounds Committee is meeting next week. Fr. Jeremy and Eric Turnquest did a walk through to go over immediate needs. With all the rain, there was some minor seepage in the rectory and undercroft. After researching the possibilities for livestreaming the worship service, Eric is recommending a hardwired internet line close to the sanctuary. The cost is minimal - approximately \$300-\$400.

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

The committee met last week and has removed dates from the timeline, as the focus needs to be on mission and not on a timeline.

#### **Finance Committee Report**

No report.

#### **Communications Committee**

No report. But since we are moving to Phase 3, Tonya Eisenberg will set up a meeting for early June.

#### **Old Business**

Safeguarding God's People – please complete that training if you've not already done so.

Update on WiFi upgrade and livestreaming options – see above.

Update of vestry calls – if anyone cannot make the calls, please let Fr. Jeremy know so the people can be reassigned.

**New Business**

Reopening plan – see above.

Fr. Jeremy posed the following question – what is unique about St. John’s that if we could not do it, it would fundamentally change who we are?

- Eucharist
- Prayer book
- Our diversity and inclusivity
- Our fellowship

Fr. Jeremy suggested we continue to think about it as it speaks to our core values.

**Other Business**

None.

**Adjournment**

At 8:07 Laura Brady moved to adjourn the meeting and Bill Moser seconded. The motion passed. The next regular vestry meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2020. Deacon Mike closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracie Moxley  
Clerk of the Vestry