

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

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting  
June 17, 2020**

**Evening Prayer and Attendance**

Vestry met via a Zoom videoconference because of the extended coronavirus shelter-in-place order. At 7:04, Fr. Jeremy Froyen opened the meeting with prayer. Members present via videoconference were Fr. Jeremy Froyen (rector), junior warden Eric Turnquest, senior warden Donna Blackburn, Chris Pfeifer, Kathy Basil, Bill Moser, Candice Barrera, Noboru Nakamura, Tonya Eisenberg, Mike Madden, Rob McManamy, treasurer Laura Brady, Deacon Mike Bond, and clerk Tracie Moxley.

**Acceptance of Minutes**

Mike Madden moved to accept the minutes from the May 20 vestry meeting. Donna Blackburn seconded and the motion passed.

The minutes of the June 2 special meeting to discuss re-opening procedures were presented as well. Bill Moser moved to accept the minutes and Kathy Basil seconded. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report**

Laura Brady mentioned a couple corrections to the budget. Revenues are slightly down for the month, but still okay overall. Expenses are as expected, below budget. For the year, we are \$14,000 below budget on expenses. Overall, we are \$3,000 ahead for the year.

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

**Rector's Report**

Fr. Jeremy reported on the monthly youth Zoom calls. There has been interest in a mission trip next summer to form a relationship with an indigenous population, probably either the Potawatomie or a parish in Navajoland. Fr. Jeremy will reach out to them about what a partnership might look like. Though the trip will be a youth mission trip, the entire parish will be involved with fundraising and there will be a need for as many adults to go as youth. Youth mission trips are an excellent opportunity for multigenerational relationship building within the parish. The goal of the trip would be to start a relationship with a church in Navajoland or Potawatomie (as opposed to ministry tourism), and eventually we would want to host them here. Navajoland in particular has been hit hard by Covid-19 and includes New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Nevada.

Bishop Lee announced today that he is formally extending his tenure to December 31<sup>st</sup> and therefore the standing committee has reset the election date for Saturday, December 12. It will be a virtual election.

Fr. Jeremy was approached by AgeOptions this week – they received a large grant to expand their Thrive with Pride Cafes and are looking for churches to partner with in the expansion. The cafes are organized by AgeOptions and provide LGBT seniors with a space to gather for educational and social purposes. (To learn more, click [here](#).) Fr. Jeremy is meeting with them in the next week. Such a

program would obviously benefit those in our community, but would also help us provide wider access to senior care and resources.

Two Black Lives Matter banners have been ordered and are currently on backorder.

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

Nothing to report.

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

The Buildings & Grounds committee will be meeting soon to get things working again before the reopening. If anyone wants to be on the committee please let Eric Turnquest know. Eric has done some work on strengthening the WiFi, and so far it seems to be going well. In the near future, the plan is to expand WiFi down the education wing as needed for livestreaming to the overflow room.

### **Long Range Planning Committee Report**

No report.

### **Finance Committee Report**

No report. Planning to meet before the July vestry meeting. Top priorities for the committee are the mid-year budget review and to begin planning for the stewardship campaign, scheduled to launch in September.

### **Communications Committee**

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

Then Rob McManamy commented that Candice Barrera looked to be the most comfortable vestry member on the call. 😊

### **Old Business**

WiFi Upgrade/Livestreaming Options – Before we reopen for in-person worship, the WiFi needs to extend to the resource room since that is the overflow space. We need livestreaming options available as well by then.

Update of Vestry Calls – We should all be receiving updated call lists with all different people. The lists went in the mail yesterday.

Reopening Plan – A good portion of the Bishop's call today was focused on reopening. Illinois is on track to move to Phase 4 soon but a few things have changed in the state's plan that effect churches. First, in Phase 4, churches can now accommodate 25% of seating capacity, or up to 100 ppl. For us, it doesn't change anything, our maximum will be 50 people. The other change is that the state now allows children's ministry to open. St. John's will likely table the issue until the fall.

### **New Business**

Windstorm Damage – Fr. Jeremy reported that the garage roof sustained damage from a tree coming down. M&M roofing is coming out tomorrow to give a quote, we have already filed an insurance claim.

The parish also lost a couple big branches from a tree on the side of the church. The lawn maintenance crew took care of breaking down the branches, but that expense should be included with the insurance claim.

Reschedule August Vestry Meeting – due to Fr. Jeremy’s vacation, the August vestry meeting will be August 26, 2020. Kathy Basil moved to change the meeting date and Bill Moser seconded. The motion passed.

Tracie Moxley stated that she will be on vacation for the July vestry meeting. Bill Moser graciously offered to be the substitute clerk for that meeting.

Discussion and Establishment of Technology Committee – Technology is only gaining in importance. Maintaining the website is critical and livestreaming is on our horizon, so Fr. Jeremy would like to establish a technology committee so as not to overwhelm the Communications Committee. He will put out a call for volunteers in the e-vangelist.

A discussion about the raised planter boxes in south lawn ensued. No one has seemed interested in maintaining them. Should we dismantle them, or offer as community garden to folks in apartments near the parish? Bill Moser mentioned that Woodlands Church has an extensive garden, perhaps they would want them? After some discussion, the consensus was that the ministry had run its course so a plan was made to offer them to the community. Tracie Moxley offered to follow up with Woodlands first. If they decline the offer, then we will offer them on Facebook on the Moms and Dads of HF page. At that point if no one wants them, we’ll dismantle and discard them.

Laura Brady moved to accept the above plan and Bill Moser seconded. The motion passed.

### **Other Business**

Rob McManamy mentioned the good news about the SCOTUS decision to protect LGBTQ rights.

Fr. Jeremy was asked if there was an update on confirmations and he reported that so far there is not. Everyone is hoping the bishop can schedule a deanery wide confirmation in the fall sometime, but no one knows for sure if it can happen.

### **Adjournment**

At 7:50 Eric Turnquest moved to adjourn the meeting and Kathy Basil seconded. Fr. Jeremy thanked the vestry for patience and leadership during this unprecedented time. He also mentioned that a couple guest preachers will be visiting St. John’s this summer: Bryan Burke, who is entering seminary and Steven Russell, who is interested in pursuing the Deaconate. The motion to adjourn passed. The next regular vestry meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2020. Deacon Mike closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tracie Moxley  
Clerk of the Vestry