

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

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
July 15, 2020**

Evening Prayer and Attendance

The Vestry met via Zoom videoconference because of the extended COVID-19 shelter-in-place order. At 7:05 p.m., Fr Jeremy Froyen opened the meeting with prayer. Members present via Zoom were Fr. Jeremy C. Froyen, Rector; Senior Warden Donna Blackburn; Junior Warden Eric Turnquest; Kathy Basil, Treasurer Laura Brady, Tonya Eisenberg, Noboru Nakamuroa, Rob McManamy, Mike Madden, Candice Barrera, and Bill Moser, who acted as Vestry Clerk pro tem in the absence of Tracie Moxley.

Acceptance of Minutes

Kathy Basil moved to accept the minutes from the June 17, 2020, meeting. Mike Madden seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Laura Brady presented her report. She noted she is using a slightly different format. Our deficit is about half gone due to lower expenses from the pandemic. Donna Blackburn moved to accept the minutes. Tonya Eisenberg seconded. The motion passed.

Rector's Report

Fr. Jeremy reported about the informal Vestry Zoom meeting about opening for services the week prior. We will wait until the beginning of August to consider opening services again the first week in September. Because of the pandemic things are still in flux.

Small groups have begun meeting and things seem to be going well with social distancing, wearing masks, and wiping everything down after themselves. "Hopefully this is an indication of things to come," he said.

Fr. Jeremy plans to wait to begin the search for a music director until after the first of the year. He is hopeful that the pool of applicants will be larger and we will be successful. In the meantime, we will use pre-recorded music for services when they begin. This helps our budget.

Fr. Jeremy asked all Vestry members to make sure they signed up on www.onrealm.org, which is our membership database and keeps our financial information. If members forget their password, they can contact either Fr. Jeremy or Sarra in the office, who will help them create a new password. Realm keeps administrative information and will be kept up to date. Members will be able to check their donations. He also encouraged automatic giving through Realm. Most members absorb the 3.0% fee themselves although a few, he said, do not add that to their pledges. Laura Brady said some people have duplicate accounts, and the office is working to merge them. Eventually all groups and Vestry documents will be available on Realm and emails with many attachments will no longer be necessary.

The Finance Committee will meet Wednesday, July 22, 2020. The committee will review the mid-year budget and may make recommendations. They will begins planning the 2021 Pledge

Campaign. This will allow a layer of transparency for the congregation to see the budget, and allow the budget process more thoughtful time.

The Rector's Discretionary Purse dispersed \$420 in the last month.

Fr. Jeremy discussed the plans for a youth mission trip. He and Deacon Mike Bond had a conversation with the David Bailey, Bishop of Navajoland. If the youth take on this project - in connection with the entire parish - it *must* be a long term project of at least four years. Bishop Bailey discouraged short term projects because too many groups have come in and been culturally insensitive and provided "support" that was not needed. Because of this unconscious, systemic racism, indigenous people are somewhat distrustful and need to see follow through. The group may go next summer or the summer after, depending on the pandemic.

Two new *Black Lives Matter* banners are up back to back on the front lawn of the church. Community response has been positive. The Property and Grounds Committee will be looking into installing posts as a way to hang banners more easily.

The Diocesan Convention will be held online November 20 and 21, 2020.

The Electing Convention to elect a new bishop will be held Dec. 12, 2020. It will be a historic first electronic nomination of a bishop. Unlike in the past, there will be no in-person Discernment Retreat to meet candidates. Rather, St. John's is hosting four meetings with candidates, and St. Martin's will host three. There will be an electronic Virtual Discernment Retreat. July 14 was the first meeting with a candidate at St. John's. The next will be July 25, August 5 and August 27. The church building will be closed on those dates.

Senior Warden's Report

Donna Blackburn had nothing to report.

Junior Warden's Report / Building and Grounds Report

Eric Turnquest reported that the gutters had been cleaned. One gutter is cracked and needs repair. The WiFi is a work in progress. It was thought to be working but there was a glitch that will be corrected.

Donna Blackburn will be working on getting electrical issues corrected.

Kathy Basil is working on getting the water issues in the foundation and Undercroft corrected.

Long Range Planning Committee

A copy of the minutes was included with Vestry Documents for today's meeting.

The committee is holding off on the Capital Campaign in light of the pandemic. In the meantime each member of the committee is looking at specific spaces and their uses and will identify work necessary. This is a more intentional approach.

Finance Committee

There was no report, but the committee will meet next week.

Communications Committee

Tonya Eisenberg reported that the committee needs people on the Tech Committee. If anyone is interested, contact her or Fr. Jeremy.

Plexiglass sign holders have been ordered so that clear directions can be posted when the church meets in person again.

She is working to announce parishioners' Birthdays and Anniversaries on Facebook.

Old Business

Fr. Jeremy asked how calling parishioners was going and Vestry members responded positively. The storm damage to the roof of the Rectory Garage is being taken care of. M&M Roofing and DelMar Builders both presented estimates. M&M's assessment was somewhat lower but seemed superficial. DelMar was thorough, discussed damage with Fr. Jeremy, and recommended a full replacement of the roof and the damaged gutters at a cost of about \$6,000. Insurance will cover all but the \$1,000 deductible. However, because the tree that caused the damage was on public land, the Village of Flossmoor insurance may cover that sum. The Village Project Manager will call tomorrow, July 16, to let us know.

The Planter Boxes were not of interest to Woodlands Church in Homewood. Bill Moser posted them on "Buy Nothing Homewood Flossmoor Only (Free Stuff)" and received a request for them within an hour. They should be gone by the weekend. If not, other people have shown interest and Bill will repost them.

Fr. Jeremy asked if we should continue Vestry meetings electronically or in person. After much discussion, it was decided to continue via Zoom for the immediate future. Mike Madden commented that online meetings have become the new normal, and Fr. Jeremy agreed.

Other Business

Rob McManamy reported that SWIFT had its first meeting in four months. The group will sponsor a billboard on the Tristate Tollway in September or October. It will say "One God/ Three Faiths/ Working Together for Peace and Understanding."

Adjournment

Kathy Basil moved to adjourn at 7:53. Eric Turnquest seconded the motion. The motion passed. The next Vestry meeting will be at 7 p.m. August 26, 2020.

Fr. Jeremy will be on vacation beginning August 6, 2020, for about two weeks. He will record services for the time he is gone.