

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

**Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
August 21, 2019**

Evening Prayer and Attendance

Vestry met in the church for evening prayer which began shortly after 6:45 pm. At 7:04, Fr. Jeremy Froyen called the vestry meeting to order. Members present were Fr. Jeremy Froyen (rector), junior warden Donna Blackburn, Bryan Burke, Kyle Dailor, Laura Brady, Mike Madden, Tonya Eisenberg, Jean Scott, Rob McManamy, Chris Pfeifer, Bill Moser, treasurer Debbi Huggett, senior warden Pat Smith Huntoon, and clerk Tracie Moxley.

Minutes

A motion was made by Bill Moser to accept the minutes from the July 17, 2019 vestry meeting. After a second by Donna Blackburn to accept the minutes, the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Debbi Huggett noted that we are spending a lot with the renovations to the undercroft, but that money had been either set aside or brought in to cover those expenses. Bryan Burke moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report, and Mike Madden seconded. The motion to accept the Treasurer's Report passed.

Senior Warden's Report

Pat Smith Huntoon reached out to Hospitality Committee and the Fundraising Committee about the possibility of repeating the mum sale from last year (during Flossmoor Fest) and it was decided they would not do a mum sale this year.

Junior Warden's Report

Donna Blackburn reported that the asbestos abatement in the undercroft is complete as well as the painting. Laying the floor has been delayed a bit, but that work is to begin tomorrow and should be done by Monday. Everything is on track to be ready for coffee hour on September 1st. A work crew needs to be assembled to put the room back together on the 31st; Donna will be putting out the call to round up volunteers for 10 am Saturday.

This past Sunday, (after very hard rains), water was discovered in the undercroft in a different spot than where it usually comes in. US Waterproofing came out and found a small crack between the kitchen and fire place. They will be coming out next week to repair the rectory and will add that crack to their work for an extra \$500. Fr. Jeremy will bless the renovated undercroft after the 10 am worship service on September 1.

Rector's Report

Fr. Jeremy reported that there have been three cottage meetings so far and all have generated some interesting ideas. There appears to be energy around the question of how we see ourselves vs. how the community sees us – what would be missed if we closed? These conversations are critical as we move forward to discern what our mission might look like for

the future. Once we finish the cottage meetings, the Long Range Planning Committee will take the data and compile it into one document to share with the congregation. At that point, we'll move into the feasibility study and begin considering what we want to do.

Fr. Jeremy referenced Stewart Scott's announcement during the worship service last week about the importance of pastoral care, and asked vestry members to tell the church office if we know of someone sick, having surgery, etc. A couple times recently the church office was not informed ahead of time.

Church of the Ascension asked if we wanted their old nativity set – the figures are 3' tall and will replace the nativity St. John's has had for many years. Fr. Jeremy is going to retrieve it. The vestry asked Laura to write a thank you note.

Two options are being considered for fall adult Christian education on Sunday mornings – the first is *Walk in Love*, a book by Scott Gunn and Melody Schobe that looks at what the Episcopal church believes by journeying through the prayer book. The other option is Revive, published through Forward Movement (the publishing arm of Episcopal church), a discipleship program aimed toward lay leaders with the goal of forming them into spiritual leaders.

On Sunday August 25, the St. John's bell will toll at 2 pm to mark the first landing of African slaves in North America.

Fr. Jeremy reported that the deanery is looking at new ways of doing youth ministry and considering the possibility of hosting a one day or half-day Happening.

Vestry discussed the PADS program at St. John's. After Margi Strombeck left, no one stepped forward to coordinate our volunteers. Is PADS a ministry we want to continue? Did vestry want to talk to parishioners about continuing? There was some confusion about the sites as well as the specific tasks that the coordinator does. Rob McManamy offered to get information about the sites and to reach out to Margi to put together a job description.

The Rector's Discretionary Fund currently has a higher balance than usual because there have been contributions but not too many expenses yet. The fund's balance is \$1995.

Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC)

Meeting notes from the August LRPC meeting were distributed. The committee will be reviewing and revising the by-laws. After their review, they will make recommendations to the vestry for revisions.

Communications Committee

Tonya Eisenberg reported that St. John's has an Instagram account! Facebook activity has really increased as Tonya has been trying to update the Facebook page often. Ethan Eisenberg raised \$700 for the Viking TV sponsorship; the \$200 left after the sponsorship was spent fixing up the youth room. Tonya met with Viking TV manager (who is a student), the manager will be coming to film during the worship service on Sunday, during coffee hour, and also during St. John's Table. The youth will have a special part in the commercial; they will be asked to gather after the 10 am service.

Old Business

Capital Campaign Update

See the Rector's report.

Update on Director of Music Search

Fr. Jeremy reported that the search for a music director is back to square one. All potential candidates were either rejected or withdrew their names. Unfortunately, there are too many open music positions and organists are a dying art. The Archdiocese of Chicago offered to post the job on their job board. Fr. Jeremy also sent the job notice to music programs in the area. There are no plans to post on Indeed right now because it proved too expensive and didn't produce good candidates. There is a supply organist starting 9/22 who will be here most Sundays through the end of the year. He offered to work with the choir as well. Choir will resume in October.

Jubilation

Pat Smith Huntoon is organizing Jubilation Sunday as Cynthia Turnquest is out of town. Pat will be reaching out to known ministries soon; if you have a ministry and want to be included, please reach out to Pat.

New Business

May Lawler Memorial Gift

Rick Lawler would like to make a memorial gift in memory of his mother, May Lawler, and he is looking to the church for ideas. If a vestry member has an idea, please let Fr. Jeremy or the Buildings & Grounds Committee know.

Proposed Discretionary Fund Policy

Fr. Jeremy passed out a proposal for a Discretionary Fund policy. In other churches, issues have come up around discretionary funds not being used properly and the canons are a bit ambiguous. Fr. Jeremy pulled language from the Diocese description. He asked vestry members to review the policy and come back with questions at next month's meeting. Next month, vestry will vote on the policy. One change that the canons dictate is the funding of the Discretionary Fund – it should be funded by the loose coin collection one Sunday (the same Sunday) per month. Collecting loose coin one Sunday a month gives the congregation an opportunity to participate.

Resolution to Support Passage of Sensible Gun Legislation

Vestry members read and discussed a resolution drafted by parishioner Steven Russell to support the passage of sensible gun legislation. If a resolution was supported by the congregation, we could submit a resolution to be considered at convention as long as we submitted it by September 30. Fr. Jeremy asked vestry members to come back next month with a general sense of where we want to go with it. He encouraged vestry to discuss it with other parishioners because the resolution should arise organically from the congregation.

Other business: SWIFT is hosting a forum on immigration, Love thy Neighbor, on September 22.

A resurrection of LobsterFest is being proposed by Stewart Scott and Rob McManamy for October 19 or 26. The event was last done in 2010 and raised about \$2000. Bill Moser moved to go forward with LobsterFest and Chris Pfeifer seconded. The motion passed.

St. John's is sponsoring a water station in front of the church for The Hidden Gem, Flossmoor's first half marathon on September 7. We need 12-15 volunteers to work the station from 7 am to 11 am. Please email or call the church office to volunteer.

Adjournment

Chris Pfeifer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, and Bill Moser seconded. The motion passed. The next vestry meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Tracie Moxley
Clerk of the Vestry