

St. John's Vestry Minutes for 4/15/18

Rev. Jan Oller called our meeting to order at about 11:50 am. Present were the Reverend Jan, vestry members Nancy Bennett, Jeff Burd, Sheila Evans, Sue Fain, Jim Gary, Marc Hudson, Char Lingen, Chris Short, and Alan White.

Reverend Jan began the meeting with a prayer

Approval of Minutes: After our prayer, the minutes for the March vestry meeting were approved.

Financials: Treasurer John Culley was not present so we did not discuss the financials in any detail. Jan did remark that as of March 30th we were one fourth the way through the year and that we had received roughly one fourth of our annual budgeted revenues. We had spent roughly 23% of our budgeted expenditures.

Liaison Reports: Jan asked if there were any questions about the liaison reports. Jeff wondered if his report from the building and property committee was clear. It was wondered if a chart might be prepared that would indicate which valve operated which sink and fixture, and which valve turned off the water for the entire building. (The mechanical room, which houses these valves, is right by the Sunday School room.) Jeff thought that was a good idea and Jim will assist him to prepare the sketch for this chart.

Old Business

Audiovisual review project: Jim has prepared a draft of the audio-visual needs survey. Nancy and Jim will finalize and send it around to the vestry members for comment and critique. Nancy made some suggestions that Jim will incorporate into his draft.

The Columbarium: Jan mentioned that Sam Hildebrand is concerned about what we will do with the old pews that will need to be removed to make room for the new section of the Columbarium. He wanted to ensure that the Vestry approves the removal of the frontal and the pews adjacent to the projected new section. Jan noted that it would be good to have room for some chairs beside the new section. Chris wondered if the frontal could be reduced but kept, thereby making it feel like a separate little space. Jan noted that we could do this but it would result in less space for chairs: she would prefer a large space. Chris wondered what we will do with the old pews: should we let the parish members know, and if they didn't want them, should we let other churches know and make them available? Jan decided that we will make known to our congregation the availability of the pews when they are removed. We will revisit this issue at the time the new Columbarium section is installed.

Gun Buy Back: Jan alluded briefly to the unfortunate situation with regards our decision to participate with the Presbyterian Church on a gun buy back program: our discomfort with some changes to that proposed program, and thus our need to withdraw from participating.

New Business

Needle Exchange Program: Tammy Foster of MCCF wants to know if St. John's wants to participate in a needle buy back program. Jan is uneasy about this since we don't have a policy for working in this area and lack expertise. The Methodists support the program, but they have a policy in place. No one seemed keen to participate in this program, but Chris wondered if there might be support for the development of an ecumenical body of representatives of local churches interested in social justice issues. Jan said there might be. It was suggested by someone that we won't know unless we try (to develop such a body).

Jeff mentioned he will have to miss our next Vestry meeting because he is looking into getting involved with Kairos (the organization that provides Prison Ministry).

The meeting was adjourned at about 1:20 pm.

Note: Our next vestry meeting is at noon on May 20th.

--Respectfully submitted by Marc Hudson, clerk to the St. John's vestry, on 5/6/18