

St. John's Vestry Minutes for 3/17/19 Meeting

Rev. Jan Oller called our meeting to order at about 12 pm. Present were the Reverend Jan, vestry members Nancy Bennett, Jeff Burd, Sheila Evans, Jennifer Snook, Deb Vaught, and Alan White. Treasurer John Culley and Deb Swanson and Sam Hildebrand (of the property/grounds committee) were also present. Jim Gary was absent. Marc Hudson and Jessica Roosa, who were touring the Wheat House, arrived a few minutes later.

We opened with a prayer led by Rev. Jan.

Minutes: The minutes for January 20, January 27, and February 3 were all approved.

Financials: Treasurer John Culley briefly went over the January and February reports. He observed that we are presently in good shape. The January and February financial reports were approved.

Liaison Reports: were acknowledged.

Old Business

AV/Sound System Status: Nancy Bennett reported that Ed Fain came up with solutions for both the computer and AV systems in Whitlock. She considers the problem resolved.

New Business

Letter from Sam Vaught, Seminarian: The vestry affirmed its prior email approval of Sam Vaught's request for support of him as a Candidate, the next stage of his ordination process. He also provided a letter/report of his journey.

Wheat House: We acknowledged the receipt of the report of the architect, Alex White, as well as the preliminary report by Gil Tobias and his proposal for a full evaluation of the Wheat House property. Since we had received the preliminary reports only a few days before and not everyone had yet read them, Rev. Jan charged the vestry to read and reflect on the two reports prior to our April vestry meeting. Marc commented that the building did not seem to be in as bad a condition as he had expected it to be in, and that seems to have been the sense of Jessica as well. Marc observed that the decision would somewhat rest on our community's desire to preserve an old building. Nancy was quick to respond that we need to keep the bottom line, and the fiscal health of our church, as a top priority. (And, indeed, the preliminary reports by our two architects suggest renovation of the old building will be a major expense.) Jessica wondered if there were any organizations that could use a renovated Wheat House for its offices. None came to mind. Deb Swanson noted that we are presently paying \$400 or \$500 per year to insure the Wheat House. The vestry agreed that we should indeed keep the current utilities in place when YSB moves from the Wheat House. That would amount to about \$125 per month.

Maintenance Capital Expense Forecast: Sam Hildebrand briefly went over the Expense Forecast that he had earlier sent to the vestry. He plans to prepare a new spread sheet and will put it in the boxes of the vestry members. Rev. Jan mentioned that we budget \$8000/year to put into the building fund. If we have a surplus we put more into the fund. We presently have about \$43,000 in the fund. Rev. Jan mentioned that Sam and Deb Swanson have put together a list of things needing to be done in terms of the maintenance of our building. She urged the vestry members to let Deb and Sam know if there is anything that is missing from that list of maintenance items.

Pathways to Vitality Parish Request from the Diocese: Rev. Jan announced that St. John's, with St. Matthew's, Indianapolis and St. Peter's, Lebanon has been selected to host a newly ordained priest for eight months as part of his/her formation. She briefly summarized St. John's role in this program which has been funded by Lilly and which will provide training for the new priest. Part of the participating churches' responsibility will be to develop vitality teams of six members that with the visiting priest will develop and implement a Vitality Project that meets the ministerial needs of their congregations. These team members will need to participate in six workshops over one

year's time. One of the priests that may be selected is bi-vocational: that is, s/he would be working in the wider community as well as working as a parish priest. We need to be mindful, Rev. Jan said, that St. John's may at some time need to have a bi-vocational priest. We need to give thought about how we, as a community, call a priest. The selected priest will start his/her pathways program in June. Rev. Jan hopes that s/he will serve St. John's during the second eight-month period of his/her two year term. The priest will be placed in a parish at the end of those two years, though it is possible that the priest will be placed before the end of that period.

Meeting with Bishop Jennifer: Rev. Jan asked for comments about Bishop Jennifer's visit. Jessica observed that she found Bishop quite progressive. Marc appreciated her warmth and her intention to stay in touch with us—to keep the lines of communications fully open.

Response to the idea of Worship in Whitlock Hall/Varieties of Church Music: Bishop encouraged us to worship sometimes in Whitlock Hall. Rev. Jan mentioned that space invites a more responsive congregation. We also considered the role of music in our service during our conversations with Bishop Jennifer. Christian Rock and KLove music were mentioned—our vestry in general is not keen on that idea it seems. We do deeply value the traditional hymns and the musicianship of Jerilyn and Alan. Yet we do need to consider other music to widen our appeal as a church. Rev. Jan mentioned that the Bishop wants us to have this conversation about music. We can simply tell her that we have had the conversation and that we pretty much want to stay with the music from the five hymn books. Rev. Jan also mentioned the possibility of having a Taize (more contemplative) service now and again. Perhaps once a quarter we could have a service with more contemporary music.

Attendance of Ecumenical Services during Lent/Easter Week: Rev. Jan was disappointed with St. John's attendance of the evening Ash Wednesday service. She urged the vestry to attend the Maundy Thursday service at First Christian as well as the Good Friday Service at St. John's.

Upcoming Events: Rev. Jan mentioned a prayer vigil in response to the shooting in Christ Church, New Zealand. She will send word around. She also mentioned the book discussion (*Stand Your Ground*) that will take place on Monday, March 18 with Bishop Jennifer. And she mentioned the Easter Services, with the community brunch between services. The next vestry meeting will be at around noon on Sunday, April 28th.

Nancy moved that we adjourn and Marc seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

--Respectfully submitted on 3/25/19 by Marc Hudson, Clerk of the Vestry