

St. John's Vestry Minutes for the 11/17/19 Meeting

Rev. Jan Oller called our meeting to order at about 11:50 am. Present were vestry members, Nancy Bennett, Jeff Burd, Sheila Evans, Jim Gary, Marc Hudson, Jessica Roosa, Jennifer Snook, Deb Vaught, and Alan White. John Culley, our treasurer, was also present.

We opened with a prayer led by Rev. Jan.

Minutes: Nancy moved and Jessica seconded that the minutes for the October vestry meeting be approved. The motion carried.

Financials: John reported that we are still transitioning to the Realm data system. He explained that Realm is a lite version of ACS. It lacks some features that ACS has--but it's cheaper and gets the job done. The due to and due from information is not on the balance sheet. Realm moves cash among the various funds to balance out interfund transactions. It takes gains and losses from each fund and posts them to the fund's principal. We don't yet have the payroll information from ADP; when he receives it, he can run the October financials. In terms of our finances, we're doing o.k. We're a little behind in pledge revenue, but our expenses are also on the low side. Jim moved and Nancy seconded the treasurer's report. The motion carried. Norm Callahan, our auditor, has been to St. John's and examined our records for 2018. Norm had a question about a \$2000 contribution to the Bill Cook Foundation. We provided Norm with the Outreach committee minutes to show the authorization. That satisfied Norm's concern. He will write up his report soon.

Liaison Reports: were acknowledged.

New Business:

Ordination of Sam Vaught to the Diaconate: Deb Vaught reported that Sam's ordination to the diaconate will take place at Christ Church Cathedral at 7 pm on December 12. All are invited and encouraged to attend. (Sam is scheduled to be priested on June 20th.) Rev. Jan mentioned that Sam would like a red chasuble to go with the red stole he is being given by Trinity, Indianapolis for his investiture as a priest. The chasuble, as Rev. Jan explained, goes over the stole. Red is the color of celebration. The ministering priest is recognized because he/she is wearing a chasuble. It is a good custom that his/her home parish gives a new priest a gift.

The Vaught family plans to provide a white chasuble and stole for Sam. (We took up this business out of order because Deb needed to leave early.)

Old Business

Wheat House: Since the funding did not work out for the renovation of the Wheat House, we are back to our earlier situation. Rev. Jan reminded us that we had earlier decided to demolish the Wheat House. She summed up our earlier discussions about this matter in the vestry. Jessica asked about who it was who wanted to keep the Wheat House. Rev. Jan replied she would rather not disclose the name of the parishioner. Nancy moved the following motion: "The consensus was reached after parish discussion that we will demolish the Wheat House at some future date." It was seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Pathways to Vitality/Liturgy: Our St. John's focus is to "Enlarge our Table; Expand Our Walls." That is to say, to find ways to be a more welcoming and more inclusive church. Deb mentioned one group is working on developing new activities, and that we are thinking about having one external new activity per quarter. Another group is looking at the liturgy. Some would like the liturgy language to be "gender neutral." The argument here is that the more traditional patriarchal language [use of "he" and "him and presuming God to be male] is not welcoming to some people, especially those who have experienced abuse. Some visitors may be turned off by it. Our bishop also has encouraged us to review our liturgy. What we are trying to do, as Rev. Jan notes, is to suss out where we are as a community with regards the language of our liturgy.

Some of us, as she puts it, are conservers, some are pragmatists, while others may be originators. It is Rev. Jan's belief that St. John's folk tend to be conservers. We discussed the language of our liturgy for some time. It is possible we will have different services--one with gender neutral and more contemporary language and another with more traditional language. Jim wondered, "do people really care?" Rev. Jan replied that she knows of at least two. But she added that it seems to her that most of St. John's parishioners are not troubled by more traditional language, and that she is a little worried about "the tail wagging the dog." The Episcopal Church, she added, does not have a congregational style of leadership: in The Episcopal Church, the Canons state that the priest makes the decisions about the liturgy. She admitted that she personally likes the phrasing and the cadences of the language in the 1979 Prayer Book. But, at the same time, we need to discern about this question as a community.

More New Business:

Housing Resolution for 2020: Rev. Jan had included the text of the Housing Resolution for 2020 with the agenda for our November meeting. The text reads as follows: "WHEREAS The Rev. Janet Oller is employed as a minister of the Gospel by St. John's the Episcopal Church, Crawfordsville, IN which does not provide a residence for her; the Vestry of St. John's resolves that of the total annual compensation of approximately \$69,000 to be paid by Rev. Oller during the year 2020, \$18,000 is to be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986." Rev. Jan noted that to determine this amount one looks at what one spends during the year for rental and utilities and one also considers fair market value for rentals. It was moved that our priest's housing resolution for 2020 be approved. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

A Piano for the Parish: During the meeting it was mentioned that Sam Smith had a piano that he would be happy to donate to St. John's. After some discussion, it was decided that the parish does not need this piano.

Nominating Committee for 2020: As the vestry members who are stepping down from the vestry, Nancy, Marc, and Alan constitute the committee responsible for developing a slate of vestry candidates to replace them. Rev. Jan informed us that Ellen Ball and Chris Short have expressed an interest in joining the vestry. The committee will need to meet soon to develop a slate of willing candidates and present the slate at our December vestry meeting.

Rev. Jan briefly noted the upcoming dates to keep in mind below.

Jim moved and Jessica seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The vestry meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

--Respectfully submitted on November 26, 2019 by Marc Hudson, Clerk of the Vestry

Dates to keep in mind:

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Dec. 1st- Advent Lessons & Carols (8a and 10:30a services)

Dec. 4th - @ 7:30p @ Pioneer Chapel (Wabash)/Festival of Lessons & Carols

Dec. 8th - @ 7:30p @ Salter Hall (Wabash)/Chamber Orchestra Concert

Dec. 12th - @ 7p @ Christ Church Cathedral: Ordination of Sam Vaught to Diaconate

Dec. 13-14th – Rev. Jan @ Waycross for Executive Council meetings

Dec. 15th: Vestry (Library following 2nd service)

Christmas Services

December 24th "Stable Service" @ 5:30p @ John Binder & Dan Booher's and reception

@ 8p @ St. John's: Holy Eucharist

December 25th @ 9am- Holy Eucharist @ St. John's