

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**Sharon, PA**  
**Vestry Minutes**  
**February 13, 2017**

**Present:** Al Seladi, Tracey Schliep, Madge Tamber, Barb Lipinski, Matt Ciszek, Robert Barletta, Adam Trambley, Keith Rowlands, Gary Funderlich, and Linda Houck.

**Absent:** None.

Vestry met in All Saints' Chapel for Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm.

Vestry reconvened in the Upstairs Dining Room at 7:25 pm.

The January 9, 2017 minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Schliep to approve and seconded by Tamber. Motion carried unanimously.

Fr. Trambley reviewed the Vestry Covenant and distributed copies for Vestry members to sign and return.

Nominations were taken for Vestry Officers: Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Clerk, and Treasurer. Funderlich accepted nomination for Senior Warden, and was elected unanimously. Seladi accepted nomination for Junior Warden, and was elected unanimously. Ciszek accepted nomination for Clerk, and was elected unanimously. Rowlands accepted nomination for Treasurer, and was elected unanimously.

Fr. Trambley introduced the Strategic Planning process that we will undertake over the next year. He has asked Funderlich to lead this process as he has much experience with strategic planning, and this allows Fr. Trambley to participate fully in the process. Funderlich lead us in an introduction to strategic planning stressing that full participation by the Vestry will result in the best end product. A handout was distributed outlining the process. He stressed that we will want to brainstorm with "pie in the sky" ideas and then narrow these down through the process. The Vestry will devote some time to Strategic Planning at each monthly meeting for the next year. Schliep asked if how we would make time for this in a typically full Vestry meeting. Fr. Trambley suggested that we start a half-hour earlier at 6:30 pm with Evening Prayer, and then run the meeting from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This was agreed upon unanimously.

Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed. A handout of the current account balances was distributed. There was some discussion of the difference between this document and a balance sheet, and this document only lists the balances in each account. This is a limitation of current software, and Rowlands and Fr. Trambley noted that we are looking for different accounting software currently.

The discussion moved to the Alms Fund, which is used by clergy to help people in immediate need with cash grants. This fund is currently at PNC, which charges an extraordinary fee (\$10) to those seeking to cash checks drawn from this fund if they are not PNC members. There was some discussion about moving this fund to a different bank with fewer fees and complications, and Rowlands and Fr. Trambley will investigate.

Additionally, the signature card at PNC for the Alms Fund is out of date. There was a discussion of who should be on the signature card, and what the policy should be. A motion was made by Tamber, and seconded by Seladi to deposit a new signature card for the Alms Fund with PNC with the signatures of the Rector, the Deacon, and the Treasurer. Unanimously approved.

A second estimate to build a base for the sign donated by Fiske was presented. This was not significantly different from the estimate from Fiske. Rowlands recommends going with the quote from Fiske, and there was some discussion of how it would be mounted and the material that would be used, and these would be followed up with Fiske. Tamber made a motion that we accept the proposal from Fiske (\$5200) and contract with them to build the sign base. Seconded by Rowlands and passed unanimously.

The Girl Scouts have asked if they could have a Drive-Thru Cookie Sale in our parking lot on March 15, 2017. There was general consensus among the Vestry to approve this. Additionally, a report was made that someone having a visible gun was on the Church campus when they were picking up their daughter from Girl Scouts a few weeks ago. There was some discussion on how we should respond to this, including posting signs or drafting a "no-gun" policy. A question was raised on guidance the Diocese could provide. Agreed to have a discussion on this issue at a future Vestry meeting.

Fr. Trambley provided some updates, including:

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 28, 2017 from 5:00-7:00 pm in Allen Hall.
- Joint Service with First Methodist Church on Ash Wednesday at 7:00 pm.
- Joint Palm Sunday service with First Methodist and First Baptist that will feature a live donkey.
- Our Vacation Bible School will be in conjunction with First Methodist this summer.
- The Diocese will hold a Diocesan Prayer Vigil at St. John's on March 17 and 18, 2017 from noon to noon.
- Natural Church Development group continues its work. They have identified four areas for concentration: parish conflict resolution, thank you and gratitude, encouraging the development of affinity groups, and capturing more pictures at events and sharing them. Fr. Trambley will be focusing on the first area, conflict resolution, in a series of Lenten sermons.
- We received a thank you letter from the Sharpsville Santa organization for use of the Santa suit.
- Erin Herald is working on "River of Grace" services for those with small children, families, and those with developmental disabilities. She hopes to do this soon outside of Sunday morning services, looking for six families to make a commitment to this, with the hopes of having 5-6 services over a two month period. The plan is to roll this out in a September to November 2017 timeframe.

Senior Warden Tamber provided the following items:

- There is currently \$7,902 in the Family Kitchen Cash account. \$1,652 is not ours and belongs to the Saturday Lunch program.
- The double-door refrigerator in the Allen Hall kitchen is having compressor issues and making noises. We have an estimate from Caplan to repair/replace the compressor for \$3,550. Episcopal Church Women will donate half of this cost, with the remainder coming from the Family Kitchen fund. Tamber seeks approval of the Vestry to commit this funding. Barletta makes a motion to commit to half of the Allen Hall double-door refrigerator compressor repair cost from the Family Kitchen fund, seconded by Lipinski. Unanimously passed.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:30 made by Schliep, and seconded by Rowlands. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted on March 9, 2017 by Matthew Cizek, Clerk.