

Vestry Minutes
The Church of St. Michael and St. George
6345 Wydown Blvd., Clayton, Mo. 63105

April 25, 2019

Vestry Members in Attendance: The Rev. Andrew Archie, Betsy Douglass, (*Sr. Warden*), Betsy Panke (*Jr. Warden*), Ian Hagemann (*Clerk*), Mary Ann Cook, Joe Freund, Stephanie Nash, Bruce Springer, Lulu Stribling, Jan Jacobi, Craig Anzilotti, Nic Ayling, McKay Mills

Clergy Assistants in Attendance: None

Guests: Laurie Brown (*Welcome/Stewardship*), Mike Zaccarello (*Treasurer*)

Vestry Members Not in Attendance: Todd Glass, Ian Mackey, Harrison Heil

Attachments/Handouts: Vestry Agenda; Sr. Warden's Report; One Size Does Not Fit All; Summarized Analysis of Revenue and Expenses; Sunday Attendance; Work Groups for Strategic Planning

Proceedings:

The evening began at 7 p.m. with a prayer and thanks given around the table. Particular thanks were given for Andrew Martin who organized flowers at the Altar of Repose, and for the clergy and staff who otherwise arranged Holy Week.

Financial Report: Mike Zaccarello, Treasurer, presented a financial summary with comments. Pledges are \$1.5M versus \$1.8M last year, with a budget of \$1.9M. However, our expenses YTD are \$25K favorable to budget. Anticipated capital expenses will be offset by a \$100K gift for preservation. Net asset position is \$13.2M representing an improvement in investment performance. Our line of credit is at \$635K, comparing to \$565K at beginning of year, which is a typical trajectory. It was agreed that the Columbarium represented a source of future income and that this should be publicized. A motion was made and seconded that the report be approved, and carried.

Thanks were expressed for Holly Brigham who has been placing the Did You Know items in the bulletin.

Stewardship Report: Laurie Brown discussed the existence of Last Year But Not Yet This Year pledgers, of whom at least 68 were present Easter Sunday. Forty-three new pledges were, however, made this year. A Stewardship meeting will take place June 4 and may lead to a "We're Not There Yet" effort and letter. Due to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, some parishioners are choosing to give double one year and none the next, which hinders our planning.

Strategic Planning Process Report: The plan, Faithfully Forward, will be communicated to the Parish in a one-page report. Jim Holbrook has recommended that participants be divided into four groups for the initial purposes of this process: External Research, Internal Research, Survey Design, and Communications. The intent is not for this to be a closed-door process, and Vestry members are welcome to communicate the existence of the process to individual parishioners.

Rector's Report: Towards the end of Lent, employment of three support staff was terminated for cause. On the positive side, a gift has been made to engage a Stewardship professional. Laurie Brown would then be able to devote full attention to the position of Director of Parish Life. John Hall, Dean of Westminster Abbey, has agreed to be the Holy Week preacher for next year.

Senior Warden's Report: The Parish Life Committee is reviewing the current status of each ministry, addressing many needs. Vestry members are encouraged to participate in ministries in order to gather input while showing support and engagement. Thanks were expressed for those, including Carol Rosales, who have filled in during staff deficits. Please remember to wear your nametag during church.

Junior Warden's Report: Departing staff will be missed, and difficult to replace. The Columbarium is a revenue source but also a continuing financial obligation as we pay for its construction.

Conversation: A discussion of Vestry functioning in relation to parish size was undertaken. We lie somewhere between the Strategic and Professional Church. A Strategic Church, while larger than a Professional Church, requires a smaller board in order to function effectively, and this has been our experience (Vestry was decreased from 18 to 15 in the past 6 years). Diocesan Representatives volunteered to attend the Convention on Nov. 22–23: Jan Jacobi, Stephanie Nash, Mary Ann Cook, Nic Ayling and Ian Hagemann. The selection process for Vestry members was discussed. At a remote time, members chose their own successor, resulting in entrenched interests. Subsequently, a nominating committee was formed by ministry leaders. This resulted in elections (due to an oversupply of candidates) and feelings of rejection. Ten years ago, the present system, in which the staff and wardens became the nominating committee, came into being. Interested individuals are welcome to manifest themselves to the clergy or wardens.

Approval of Minutes: They will henceforth be posted on the website, rather than in the library, once each meeting's minutes are approved. Regarding the 11/28/18 minutes, a motion to approve was made and seconded, and carried unanimously. Regarding the 1/20/19 minutes, a motion to approve was made and seconded, and carried unanimously. Regarding the Vestry retreat minutes dated 2/8/19, a motion to approve was made and seconded. A friendly amendment to the section on strategic planning was accepted and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business: Styrofoam cups are to be replaced by Dixie PerfectTouch for environmental reasons.

Upcoming dates: The Nicaragua benefit is Sunday, April 28, and the Vestry will donate a dinner. St. George Society event with Dr. Ben Akande will occur next Wednesday, May 1. The monks from the St. Louis Abbey will be present for Vespers on May 5. Saturday, May 11, a Vestry dinner with the Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith, Bishop of Missouri, will occur at the St. Louis Club. Confirmation will be May 12. The next Vestry meeting will be June 20. Laurie Anzilotti, parishioner, will be ordained to the priesthood June 24.

Adjourned at 8:36 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Hagemann, Clerk of the Vestry