

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

September 19, 2019

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

Clergy Assistants in Attendance: Fr. Tom Albinson (*Asst. Rector*), Fr. Peter Speropulos (*Asst. Rector*)

Guests: Alexis Posnanski (*Stewardship and Giving*), Mike Zaccarello (*Treasurer*), Laurie Brown (*Fellowship*), Jim Holbrook (*Strategic Planning*)

Vestry Members Not in Attendance: Ian Mackey, Betsy Panke (*Jr. Warden*), Todd Glass

Attachments/Handouts: Vestry Agenda; August Minutes; Sunday Attendance; Strategic Planning Update; Financial Report

Proceedings:

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Fr. Archie. Each member of the Vestry gave thanks for events in their life.

Strategic Planning—Jim Holbrook provided a handout and update. We have the courage to undertake this effort; may we have the grace to complete it. An internal and external review have been completed and have led us to a modified SWOT analysis (see handout). The learnings are favorable overall, but there are calls for more clergy and more pastoring; questions about the school and finances; suggestions for Sunday morning and music. Parishioners should be owners—not customers. Generational differences are in play. The committee has been re-formed into new subcommittees including Operations, Stewardship, Church + School, Parishioner Engagement, Communications, and Community Development. A survey will be given in October, reported to the Rector in December and presented at the Annual Meeting. The group plans to recommend that we underline a particular outreach ministry as our face in the community, and will also recommend a capital campaign.

Financial Report (Mike Zaccarello)—August YTD net results amounted to \$41K of loss, \$62K unfavorable to budget, \$63K unfavorable to 2018. August YTD expenses were \$29K favorable to budget but \$76K higher than 2018. The Endowment is at \$11.7M. Our notes payable to the bank stand at \$625K, an increase of \$60K since end 2018; but we have not borrowed in August or so far in September. One of our liabilities is notes

payable on the Wydown houses, which are under mortgage from the Endowment Fund. Externally, the Church owns the houses outright. A motion to approve the financial report was made, seconded and adopted.

The Leland Fund is a stipulated fund established to provide a Holy Week preacher. The expense this year exceeded the 2019 budget of \$12,000 by \$1,172, as the preacher elected to bring a spouse; however, the Fund has realized sufficient gain (in part thanks to additional gifts) to support this change, but a motion is required to disburse additional funds. This motion was made, seconded and adopted. In future, spouses will be permitted, but perhaps discouraged.

Stewardship (Alexis Posnanski)—Vestrypeople were asked to finalize their list of four agreed canvassers. Training will occur October 6 after the 9:15 service and October 7 at 5:30. A mission-driven script will be provided.

A signup was circulated by Laurie Brown for helpers for St. Michael's Sunday.

Rector's Report—Several signatures were gathered to help complete the Vestry financial conflict of interest statement. Fr. Archie circulated an article (Michael Grybowski, "Episcopal Church sees greater drop in membership in 2018", *Christian Post*, 9/5/19) reporting that Sunday attendance across the Church dropped by 23,500 in calendar 2018. In addition, attendance used to mean three Sundays a month, and now means one. It was suggested that our outcome measure should perhaps not be Sunday attendance, or dollars, but participation in ministries. The search for a youth minister is ongoing, with two candidates in early stages. The search committee is Nancy Donohoo, Sam Sked, Lindsay Symon, and Jess Speropulos.

Senior Warden's Report (Betsy Douglass)—The Stewardship and Parish Life Committees of the Vestry met this evening. There is a lot of engagement with the Strategic Planning process; only two individuals are known to have declined to participate. Parishioners are concerned about financial transparency, so there will be some changes to the "Where Does the Money Go" session, after 9:15 on October 13. Betsy is sending a letter to the Parish describing the Finance Committee and tendering an invitation to the meeting. A question was asked as to whether there could be a first session after the 8:00 service. The focus groups in this time slot were well attended.

Parish activities: The Smiths held a potluck at their house. Grandparents' Sunday was last Sunday, with activities, pictures and great snacks. The Nicaragua dinner was successful, as judged by the enthusiasm of the diners and servers. A thank-you note was received from Michelle Klein, who provided wine for each of the hosts and apple butter for each server.

Lulu Stribling mentioned the existence of casserole clubs in the Parish. Could these be venues for discussing stewardship?

Nic Ayling reported an occurrence in which St. Michael's Houses made a donation to Places for People. This happy event is a reminder that the outreach ministries operate outside of the Church's budget. Would it be desirable for these to be brought inside the budget? This might be recommended by the Strategic Planning committee, but would limit the ministries' ability to raise and spend their own funds.

Approval of Minutes: Moved, seconded and approved.

New Business: None.

Upcoming dates: The next Vestry meeting is November 21, 2019. The Vestry Christmas Party will be December 9. The Annual Meeting is set for January 19, 2020.

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Hagemann, Clerk of the Vestry