

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

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Vestry Members in Attendance: The Rev. Andrew Archie, Ian Hagemann (*Clerk*), David Ott (Treasurer), Harrison Hagan Heil, Carl Eichenberger, Mary Ann Cook, Joe Sheehan (*Sr. Warden*), Ruth Ezell, Rachel Martens, Craig Anzilotti, Daniel Smith, Bill Wallace, Bruce Springer

Clergy Assistants in Attendance: Fr. Tom Albinson, Fr. Peter Speropulos

Guests: Alexis Posnanski (Stewardship), Kyle Tallman (Youth Minister)

Vestry Members Not in Attendance: Betsy Panke (*Jr. Warden*), Stephanie Nash, Kate Harris

Attachments/Handouts: Vestry Agenda, Vestry Minutes 11-24-20, Vestry Minutes 2-13-21, November, December, January, February attendance, Financial Summary

Proceedings: The meeting was convened by the Rector at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. Fr. Tom gave the invocation and each person gave thanks for events in their life.

Youth Ministry: This has been a success. Kyle Tallman gave an update. The framework is Belong, Grow, Serve, Go. Belong: kids should feel safe, invited, welcome. They are holding bridge events where kids will be comfortable, not specifically with church-related content. Regular youth group events do have a lesson. In the area of service, they want them to understand why they are serving: not to earn God's love, but to be His hands and feet. When students do leave for college, they want them to be confident in what they know about Jesus. The style of ministry is incarnational: they go where kids are. They show up at kids' events, baseball games, etc. Even in the pandemic, it has been possible to meet in various ways. See the annual report for further details on Zoom youth group meetings and Instagram Live Sunday school. Programming would have ended at the beginning of May, but they have chosen to continue. They have been studying the Book of Acts. Middle School Mission Week was switched to a stay-at-home program last year with a full written devotional. In the fall, the year started with a Color Jam (Belong event). Kids have even invited friends. Two high school girls' small groups and a boys' small group have formed. The Fall Festival and Nativity Pageant allowed people to be together again. They have rented a movie theater, gone to Top Golf, played paintball with 23 attendees. An in-person Middle School Mission Week is envisioned this year. The Youth Ministry Leadership Team has established an idea called "seats on the bus": each person has an area of responsibility (service trips, etc.).

Treasurer's Report: The Rector noted that both the Administrator and Treasurer are new in their roles and still learning their roles. Both are learning a new software program

as well. The Sr. Warden noted that some workarounds that were in place for our financial analyses have been discovered and the Vestry's patience is requested as those are worked out. The financial picture is good. Pledge receipts of \$155K for the month are ahead of budget of \$145K. Other support is going to vary month to month. Net asset relief from the endowment is quarterly and there was none last month, by plan. We are on target to meet budget within \$1K. Acceptance of this report was motioned, seconded and adopted.

Stewardship: Last week, 70 postcards and pledge cards were sent out to "last year but not this year" (LYBNT) pledgers. A grant for \$64,000 was submitted to the Pershing Charitable Trust, \$50K for annual fund and \$15K for security items (crash bars, camera for receptionist area). Only \$1K is still needed to cover the video streaming (a lead gift was received). The St. George Society has decided not to do a Zoom event; fearing Zoom fatigue. The speaker identified for last year will be brought in in the future. The Rector notes that the goal for this year is to elicit pledges from the "out of sight, out of mind" LYBNTs and focus on some large gifts in progress.

Parish Life: Harrison Heil reviewed ongoing programs: Bible studies, Family ministry, Quiet Morning (45 attendees), Faith in Action, numerous programs. Connecting with Youth Ministry is envisioned for the fall. Racial Reconciliation: through the Diocesan Commission on Dismantling Racism, next February CSMSG will host a conference on Absalom Jones (co-organised by Harrison and by Shug Goodlow). Mary Ann Cook described the Education Equity Ministry, which has been contacting Sumner families. There has been a 60% increase in attendance among those families. They are often living in difficult conditions, e.g., at extended stay motels. The group is advocating for students who do not have acceptable transportation. The goal is not to fix problems that we cannot fix, but to understand the lives of those living just a few miles from us. The school district will help us find a partner for next year. Harrison envisions expanding the Parish Life committee, which currently is all Vestry.

Rector's Report: A donkey will be present for Palm Sunday. Due to travel restrictions, we will not bring a visiting preacher, but have invited the Rev. Jamal Scarlett to be Holy Week preacher. There will be Maundy Thursday in the Church. The Bishop has prohibited foot washing for Vestry members, who are none the less needful of it. The vigil will be one person at a time. Good Friday will occur. New Vestry members will receive a handbook being assembled by Laurie Brown at this time. CSMSG is one of the few parishes that the new Bishop has been able to visit in person. He will celebrate the Easter Vigil (Holy Saturday) on the playground.

Sr. Warden's Report: They have discussed with Bp. Deon the church's contribution to the diocese. When we grow our pledges, we will be able to increase our contribution. He is in agreement and he, too, wants to grow the parish. In the Strategic Plan, we did plan to walk more closely with other parishes and the Diocese. Our mutual respect with Bp. Deon will make this possible.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 11/24/20 and 2/13/21 were reviewed. Acceptance was moved, seconded and adopted.

New Business: None.

Upcoming Dates: The next regular Vestry meeting will be Thursday, April 15, 2021.

The Vestry adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Hagemann, Clerk of the Vestry