

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

Thursday, April 15, 2021

Vestry Members in Attendance: The Rev. Andrew Archie, Ian Hagemann (*Clerk*), David Ott (*Treasurer*), Craig Anzilotti, Joe Sheehan (*Sr. Warden*), Bill Wallace, Betsy Panke (*Jr. Warden*), Harrison Hagan Heil, Kate Harris, Mary Ann Cook, Daniel Smith, Bruce Springer, Rachel Martens, Stephanie Nash

Clergy Assistants in Attendance: The Rev. Tom Albinson, The Rev. Peter Speropulos

Guests: Alexis Posnanski (Stewardship)

Vestry Members Not in Attendance: Carl Eichenberger, Ruth Ezell

Attachments/Handouts: Vestry Agenda, Vestry Minutes 3-18-21, Financial summary dated 3.2021, March Sunday attendance

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.

Financial Report: Dave and Sonya will be reorganizing our financials, but realize it will take some time. They are new and our accounting system (Realm) is new. Conversions are always a challenge. Currently we are still not even getting together in the same room. Sonya also has a variety of other operational responsibilities that need to be prioritized. We continue to discover steps were that being carried out manually. Remember that one goal of the Strategic Plan was to improve redundancy so that processes would not be so dependent on the knowledge of a specific business manager. Realm will eventually let us run reports that we never could.

To turn to the details, our revenue looks to be on track. Pledge income is keeping a pace. "Other" support such as memorials are hard to plan or rely on. Revenue and expenses are down but by about the same amount.

Acceptance of the report was moved, seconded and adopted.

Stewardship Report: Of \$1.6M pledged, \$782K is in hand. A postcard was sent to 70 who pledged last year but not this year, resulting in 17 new pledges for \$92K. A letter from The Rector and Ed Ellermann (Endowment Expansion Committee) is going out tomorrow. It is vital that vestry members include the parish in your estate planning. The newsletter on April 23 will highlight an "extend your pledge" video (idea of Jeff Miller). When parishioners pass away, their gift should replace their pledge. A "fund razor" will

take place at the picnic on May 23 when Fr. Tom will be tonsured in a manner proportional to the funds raised.

Parish Life Report: “Invite, Welcome, Connect” is not a program or event: it is a ministry in which we will welcome others to know Jesus, get to know our gifts and enter a relationship with us. This year we have had many visitors, as the only parish with in-person services. Laurie, Tom, Peter have connected with these visitors, who have started coming to morning prayer or Compline. But our intention is not to steal sheep from other flocks. We can connect people with our inward- and outward-facing ministries: Hunger Ministry, soon Shelter Ministry again. We hope to build hospitality host teams in September, but first must reach parishioners who have not yet returned to church. On May 23 we will have a picnic with music, petting zoo, and the aforementioned hair cutting. In September for St. Michael’s Sunday we will have a grand reopening and invite everyone to return and fly the flag all weekend: Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

We want parishioners to join the Realm network. When we adopted it, we didn’t realize it did not automatically share directory information. In addition, please “like” CSMSG on Facebook and give it a rating there, and on Yelp. The good news: We do not have to do this alone.

Discussion: The plan also needs to welcome those who are not looking for the social aspect, but looking for a relationship with God. That must be in the message. Church is not only to scratch an itch. Now the tools being presented may bring people into the Church, where they will in fact meet Christ.

Rector’s Report: At this moment we have an unparalleled team, many of whom are on hand tonight. For the last year we have done outreach to parishioners who were shut in by the pandemic, or who were struggling with issues resulting from it. We are moving out of the pandemic and more comfortable being together in Church thanks to the vaccine, but will need to maintain our emphasis on wearing masks and keeping a distance. As part of strategic planning, we must decide which Covid initiatives we will keep and which ones we will let go in the new environment. Staff do need to be vaccinated—the clergy are vaccinated already—there is hesitancy among only a few of the staff.

Senior Warden’s Report: The Strategic Plan unknowingly prepared us for Covid. Our mission, to live Christ into the world, never changed. The first casualty of battle is strategy, so Joe has asked Jim Holbrook to get the band back together and look again at whether the strategy needs to change in the next 18 months. The issue is less about weaknesses and more about opportunities and threats. We have the opportunity to be vibrant enough to introduce others to Christ, even if evangelism is not a strength for Episcopalians. We have our mission, so let us go out and do it.

Discussion: It has been announced that less than 50% of the U.S. population believes in God. Our challenge is to stand and say, God IS alive and at work.

Junior Warden's Report: We are thankful to have Sonya, who is working through the 2017 recommendations for the building. She is looking into security (balanced against openness). This could include cameras, special doors, and a buzzer. The stairs at the Wydown entrance have been replaced. Leaks have been patched. A team of parishioners worked on the garden before Easter and the city of Clayton has done necessary tree work.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 3-18-21 were reviewed. A friendly amendment was requested to remove a sentence about an outreach effort in North City about which we had limited details. Acceptance of the amended minutes was moved, seconded and adopted.

New Business: It was suggested that the Youth Ministry motto, "Belong. Grow. Serve. Go," could be extended to Children's Ministry. Fr. Peter agreed that this is a goal, and would include those of college age as well. Making our Children's, Youth and Parents' ministries less scattered can help us link to the school as well (note that we now have one logo with three colors, instead of three logos).

It was noted that the 9 a.m. outdoor service is a good opportunity for newcomers, with a lot of social distance. It is more friendly toward kids. Thank you to Fr. Peter for that program.

A question was asked about whether there will be a summer schedule. In reply, before Labor Day we will retain an 8, 9, 10 a.m. schedule to comply with the Bishop's seating limitations. The current limit is 140 per service. We cannot fit 200 in church with sufficient social distance. If we are to cut back to two services, the limit must be increased. We have never been at capacity at 8, 9 or 10, but that is thanks to having all three services. Incidentally, having three services means we can only have two readings. At this time the 9:00 am and 10:00 am liturgies have a quartet. When (and whether) parishioners will be able to sing again is an open question.

Upcoming Dates: The next regular Vestry meeting will be Thursday, May 20, 2021.

The Vestry adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Hagemann, Clerk of the Vestry