

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

Thursday, May 20, 2021

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

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

Guests: Alexis Posnanski (Stewardship), Laurie Brown (Parish Life)

Vestry Members Not in Attendance: Harrison Hagan Heil, Kate Harris, Stephanie Nash, Craig Anzilotti

Attachments/Handouts: Vestry Agenda, Vestry Minutes 4-15-21, Financial summary dated 4.2021, April Sunday attendance, Ville Community Development Foundation Summer/Fall 2021 Programming

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 (David Ott): Sonia has made much progress in our reporting. There is no longer a “negative expense” to represent revenue from the toddler/infant program. IT is its own line item, instead of being in a large “administration” bucket. Our revenue is a bit below budget and a bit below where we were last year, but so are expenses, so the net/bottom line is still -\$20,000, but favorable to budget of -\$60,000 and to last year’s performance of -\$90,000. There are a few typos in the distributed report, which will be corrected. A request is made for a column showing variance to budget. Over 1 month, this would not be meaningful, but over a period of a few months, bumps will be smoothed out. A motion to accept the report is made, duly seconded, and adopted.

Stewardship Report (Alexis Posnanski): As of May 20, there are 289 pledges for \$1,639K, and \$952K has been received for the annual stewardship campaign. In April, 70 “last year but not this year” households received a card and sent 21 pledges for \$103K, included in the total above. In April a St. George Society mailing from Fr. Andrew and Ed Ellermann was sent out, resulting in 2 new members. In early May we introduced the Alleluia Fund, a new effort to fund projects outside of the Church operating budget such as specific building maintenance and upgrades. The 1st fundraiser this year (Fr. Tom’s Fund Razor this Sunday) will replace the “return to the well” 2nd appeal that is done in most years. We have 35 donors and over \$65K.

Fr. Andrew noted that 49 pledgers are still “LYBNT” (including some large pledgers) and seem manifestly unlikely to return. On the other hand we have several new families pledging. The Rector and Sr. Warden will be making targeted asks to complete this year’s campaign, in their usual morose way. In summer we do tend to pivot to next year’s campaign.

A motion to adopt this report was made, seconded and adopted unanimously.

Parish Life Report (Laurie Brown): This Sunday’s picnic will replace the usual Memorial Day event. In addition to the haircut, there will be a petting zoo, and Steve, the hot dog vendor. This will be a homecoming of sorts for those we have not seen this past year. Surely, we are careening toward a return to normalcy. The picnic will follow the 10:00 service. A question on picnic attendance has been added to the worship registration form.

Rector’s Report: Our goal is that by Labor Day, we approach a normal state. We would transition from 8, 9 and 10 a.m. services to an 8 and 10. This can only happen once the Bishop lets us use every pew. We will continue to wear masks for now, because many but not all are vaccinated. Perhaps after the Bishop’s word, this will no longer be necessary. Masks will be worn at the picnic in obedience to the Bishop’s command, but of course not while eating the hot dogs.

The Vestry chose to transition to a 6 p.m. meeting time for June, and we will see if it works. There will still be a Zoom option.

Education Equity Ministry (Mary Ann Cook): Our partner is Sumner HS in the Ville. For it to survive, the community must be sustainable. We meet organizations (including the Tabernacle, a partner of St. Peter’s) within the Ville to understand how we can help them fill the need. Another is St. James AME Church, across the street from Sumner, which has been providing meals to families, a science fair, and after-school activities to support students. The Church together with the Ville Community Development Foundation is providing a summer program at which CSMSG volunteers can volunteer. Positions working with kids are likely to require a background check, letter from a priest, etc., but not all roles will involve direct contact with kids and that may be more flexible. Mary Ann will find out from the minister at St. James what we can do to help. Rev. Norris is the new head of the Clergy Coalition, another organization we can be in relationship with. He is moving to Rosebury Ave., and Tom and Harrison have offered to have him to dinner to welcome him to our neighborhood. Our approach is to ask these organizations what they need: “We know who the Savior is, and it’s not us.” CSMSG may be able to offer things that other organizations could not, but the point is not for us to bring money. It is to bring connections to the greater St. Louis community: “opportunity forging”. As an example, kids may be able to learn to build houses from skilled tradesmen. Professionals could teach financial literacy, maybe at the Church. In other words: instead of keeping all the opportunities for ourselves, let’s connect these organizations with the opportunities.

In a straw poll, the Vestry was generally supportive of involvement and building a relationship. Some questions were asked about what specifically would be involved/required. It may be valuable to enlarge the group of participants so we know how big a team we can field.

Senior Warden's Report (Joe Sheehan): The Warden thanked the Education Equity group for their outreach. He encouraged the Vestry to reach 100% participation in the Fund Raiser by making a pledge of any amount to the Alleluia Fund. A key ingredient of our navigation of Covid has been the staff. We greatly appreciate those people, both on this call and not on it. We hope that the congregation has adequately conveyed that message! We need them to stay here, so we can do Christ's work, for which we have an enormous drive. The more revenue we have, the more we can do.

Junior Warden's Report: The Warden yielded back her time.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 4-15-21 were reviewed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved, seconded and adopted.

New Business: There are three weddings at the Church in the next few weeks, and we have gotten a request to livestream one of them on June 12.

There was a suggestion that we discuss the new proposed vision statement from the Diocese. The old statement was approximately, "Making disciples, building congregations for the sake of the life of the world". Is the new statement (below) as faithful as we want it to be? Does it even say we are a church? The Diocese does have a feedback form open,
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10JqJfjVMoOYODFjv5ccfADEuXd9A2MKBjVMCCI4FZLI/viewform?gxids=7628&edit_requested=true.

Proposed mission statement: We embrace the Good News of Jesus to seek justice and act with compassion while walking humbly with God and our neighbor.

Proposed vision statement: A world transformed by justice, compassion, and peace.

Upcoming Dates: The next regular Vestry meeting will be Thursday, June 17, 2021.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Hagemann, Clerk of the Vestry