

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

**Thursday, October 21, 2021**

**Vestry Members in Attendance:** The Rev. Andrew Archie, Joe Sheehan (*Sr. Warden*), Carl Eichenberger, Ian Hagemann (*Clerk*), Harrison Hagan Heil, Ruth Ezell, Betsy Panke (*Jr. Warden*), Bruce Springer, Rachel Martens, David Ott (*Treasurer*), Daniel Smith, Stephanie Nash

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

**Guests:** Alexis Posnanski (Stewardship)

**Vestry Members Not in Attendance:** Mary Ann Cook, Craig Anzilotti, Bill Wallace

**Attachments/Handouts:** Vestry Agenda, Vestry Minutes 9-16-21, Financial Presentation, September Sunday attendance, Bishop's Vaccine Policy

**Proceedings:** The meeting was convened by the Rector at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. The Rev. Peter Speropulos gave the invocation and each person gave thanks for events in their life.

*Treasurer's Report:* A report was exhibited. Keep in mind that monthly data are subject to variation because of timing. The YTD data have more meat to them. We have a net surplus of \$174K, which is attributed to the Paycheck Protection Program (\$339K). Our revenue exclusive of PPP is \$1.78M, compared against YTD budgeted revenue of \$1.85M—typical of our performance in other years. Our program expenses YTD have been \$1.95M instead of budgeted \$2.15M, largely thanks to Sonya's efforts in cutting costs. Of some note, the daycare is now being reckoned as revenue instead of as a negative expense as it had been done in past years, but is currently losing money due to decreased utilization. As another note, the endowment draw occurs in four tranches and the last of them is not reflected in these August numbers.

A motion to accept the report was made, seconded, and adopted by acclamation.

*Stewardship:* Thank you to those who gave testimonials: Carl and Frankie Eichenberger, Rachel and Peter Martens. We have 12 pledges for \$163K total going into Pledge Sunday. \$1.657M were pledged last year and \$1.439M have been received, and Alexis expects the balance to come in by and bye. The Alleluia Fund has received \$233K and will receive another \$25K in November. A question was asked about whether these funds and outreach ministry funds are reflected on the balance sheet (not currently). Doing so could be encouraging to parishioners.

*Parish Life:* Faith in Action is active again, chaired by Nic Ayling. On April 24 there will be an elegant gala, modeled on the Nicaragua auction but for the benefit of all outreach ministries. We have averaged 175 for Sunday attendance, and there were 275 for St. Michael's Sunday. Food Truck Friday was successful. The women's retreat had 51 participants, half of them in person and half on Zoom. Education Equity Ministry has adopted another school, Columbia Elementary, to have a similar relationship with us as Sumner High (they are in the same area). Racial Reconciliation is holding a Sunday class with 8 participants on average, led by Fr. Tom, Harrison Heil, and Matt Barickman using the Sacred Ground curriculum. This is a test run; the full program will be run in the spring. This curriculum is based on recognizing that TEC is primarily white and our members may not have a foundation for listening and engaging. The Delmar Divide bus tour will be Nov. 7. It booked up in five days, but if there is additional interest

we can organize another one. With a full bus, Covid precautions will be taken (N95 masks for all). The Missouri History Museum will lead this tour, and a comfortable and safe bus is being sought.

The Absalom Jones celebration will be Feb 12. We had expected the Rev. Wm. Barber to speak, but this will be impossible. Instead, the Rev. Canon Kelly Brown Douglas accepted the Bishop's invitation, which gives some direction to the planning committee. Harry Moppins will be leading the choir and will coordinate with the Bishop's office to understand the musical expectations.

Nov. 6 will be the Fall Festival. Attendance will be more open than last year (still respecting social distancing) and the bluegrass band is confirmed.

*Rector's Report:* Our census shows we have more attendance than last year, and less than 2019. We are in the midst of several departures: the Youth Minister, Organist, and one of our part-time office staff. Nick Bideler is serving as Interim Organist and Choirmaster for a period of six months, after which a search will be conducted. The Bishop has determined that all staff (not only parishioner-facing) must be vaccinated. The Diocesan policy was circulated.

*Senior Warden's Report:* Should we hold these meetings via Zoom? The Warden mentioned the merits of in-person meetings, and asked that members please communicate to him any preference for an online format. He remains optimistic for our outreach and accomplishments, in spite of the obstacles we face. It was noted that vaccine resistance is not a new phenomenon.

*Approval of Minutes:* Minutes from 9-16-21 were reviewed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved, seconded and adopted.

*New Business:* It was observed that some families come for Children's Chapel and Church School, but do not attend Education Hour (9 a.m. on Sunday). Can additional programming be added? One piece we have not had is pastoral care. The time could be used for ministry/club meetings. The Rector surmises that what is keeping people away is not lack of programming, but the pandemic. Some will come to church for Church, but will refuse to come to anything else if they must wear a mask, or will refuse to come until the pandemic ends. Fr. Peter notes that some parents are waiting for their young children to be eligible for vaccination.

A compelling documentary called "Ferguson Rising" will be part of the St. Louis International Film Festival.

*Upcoming Dates:* The next regular Vestry meeting will be Thursday, November 18, 2021. The Annual Meeting on January 23, 2022 will be the last official act of this Vestry. The Vestry retreat for those continuing and newly elected is scheduled for February 18-19, 2022.

The Vestry adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ian Hagemann, Clerk of the Vestry