

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

**Thursday, August 26, 2021**

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

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

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

**Vestry Members Not in Attendance:** Kate Harris, Mary Ann Cook, Craig Anzilotti

**Attachments/Handouts:** Vestry Agenda, Vestry Minutes 6-17-21, June and July Sunday attendance, Balance Sheet 6/30/21, Budget to Actual Comparison

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

*Treasurer's Report:* A Rubin Brown review (taking the place of a full audit) was received and was clean and showed a stronger balance sheet than the year before with assets increased by \$1.87M. Endowment gains accounted for almost 90% of the increase. Liabilities were unchanged other than the Paycheck Protection Program funds that were forgiven in July. Although revenue declined by \$669K, the forgiven PPP loan was \$647K. The balance sheet showed pledges weaker than one year ago, but favorable to budget. Special gifts ("life events") were weak v. budget, but in reality are impossible to budget for. We may change our approach to this. Revenue was \$30K below budget, a less than 2.5% gap. Favorable decreases in expenses included administration, which was much lower than budgeted thanks to disciplined expense control, less programming, and monthly budget reports now being provided to program directors. Music and youth were lower, but we would prefer to have this programming rather than to have the cost savings. Thanks were offered to David, with special thanks expressed to Sonya for their work in getting a better snapshot of the church's finances. The senior warden agreed and said there was still more to improve on, but this was a great start. The finances have held up this year even with the challenges we have faced. Ultimately we are well ahead of budget (\$170K favorable) despite lower revenues. This report was presented and acceptance was moved, seconded and adopted.

*Stewardship:* Alexis began her stewardship update with a discussion of the 2022 Vestry Stewardship statement that will be printed on the back of the pledge card. All those in

attendance did sign the current draft of the statement but are aware changes will be coming. In particular, the statement will be amended to reflect that “this will be our largest single gift.” It was noted that the statement is phrased more as a prayer than as a commitment. The Rector and the Senior Warden will wordsmith the statement and get back to the Vestry.

Alleluia Fund update: In July, an anonymous \$50K was made to the Alleluia Fund. In August, a gift just shy of \$50K was made to the general endowment. As of 8/26, the fund has received \$152,188, which includes \$15,000 from the Pershing Charitable Trust to which will cover the crash doors on the Ellenwood and Wydown doors and security cameras for these doors as well. Other projects checked off the list include: ground improvements; sand, clean, repair and refinish exterior doors; a dedicated laptop that was purchased for the Great Hall. Bids for the roof are incoming and live streaming enhancements were made.

In order to be good stewards of our resources, changes have been made to the leaflets, thus saving CSMSG \$17K a year.

Thanks again to Carl and Frankie Eichenberger for co-chairing the 2022 Stewardship campaign and also for taking the time to film a stewardship testimonial. Also, thanks are in order to Rachel and Peter Martens for taking the time to film a stewardship testimonial.

Stewardship 2021 update: as of 8/26, \$1,657,860 has been pledged, \$1,286,104 has been received and \$371,756 is outstanding.

*Parish Life:* September 24–26 will be a Welcome Back weekend with the theme of “Coming Home.” That Friday, there will be a jamboree with food truck dinner on the Ellenwood lawn and a performance by the Red and Black Brass Band. Saturday will be a service morning with sandwich making, casserole assembling, knitting, altar and pew cleaning, yard work and more. St. Michael’s Day (Sept. 26) will feature the bagpipers who have become a beloved tradition, as well as the annual fried chicken picnic in the form of box lunches after the 10 a.m. service. Booklets will be mailed to parishioners.

Our last three-service Sunday will be on Sunday, September 5th and our regular fall worship service will begin on Sunday, September 12th with an 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. service and a Sunday School hour (including adult education) at 9:00. The traditional rector’s forum will begin the first Sunday in October.

*Rector’s Report:* The Rector previously announced that staff in parishioner-facing functions would need to be vaccinated against COVID-19 before fall programming begins in September, or undergo regular testing. This is necessary to protect parishioners and staff. Kyle Tallman, Youth Minister, has submitted his resignation. The

Rector acknowledged Kyle for his timely contributions during the pandemic. Fr. Peter will serve as the interim Youth Minister.

*Senior Warden's Report:* The Warden reported being pleased with our leadership and all that the Staff and Vestry have accomplished. This year has been difficult due to the pandemic and the current delta variant surge, and he expressed appreciation for all the effort involved in keeping the church open and priests and staff serving our parishioners.

*Junior Warden's Report:* Sonya has asked the Warden to spearhead replacement of the cracked sewer lateral line below the Wydown Playground. She has contacted the engineer who handled the playground 20 years ago, who is semi-retired but happy to get involved. Planning has only just begun. This would be a good time to make necessary repairs to the playground, e.g., resurfacing. The work will be done next summer. Also, the Bishop has hired a contractor, Rick Kuhn of Kuhn Construction, to analyze all of the Diocesan properties. That visit to CSMSG has not been scheduled, but Sonya has had Rick come over to be a neutral party in solving the water issues on the roof (north wall of the Ellenwood narthex). That problem has a plan underway.

*Approval of Minutes:* Minutes from 6-17-21 were reviewed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Joe Sheehan, seconded by Daniel Smith, and adopted.

*New Business:* Rachel Martens discussed the Episcopal Migration Ministries, an organization that supports various efforts such as a toolkit for asylum seekers, a seminar for "Love God, Love Your Neighbor" training and Welcome Neighbor STL. The site is [episcopalmigrationministries.org](http://episcopalmigrationministries.org). With all that has been going on in Afghanistan, this could be a place where we could provide help in this time of need.

*Upcoming Dates:* The next regular Vestry meeting will be Thursday, September 16, 2021. The Vestry retreat is scheduled for February 18-19, 2022.

The Vestry adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ian Hagemann, Clerk of the Vestry  
Carl Eichenberger, Clerk pro tempore