

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

Thursday, September 16, 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, Stephanie Nash, Rachel Martens, Daniel Smith, Bill Wallace

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, David Ott (*Treasurer*)

Attachments/Handouts: Vestry Agenda, Vestry Minutes 8-26-21, Financial Presentation, August Sunday attendance

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: The report was given by the Senior Warden, the Treasurer being excused. The positive is, we are \$156K favorable to budget YTD, which includes recognition of our \$315K PPP loan. In 2020, we were \$444K unfavorable to budget, but this figure was artificially inflated because it did not include the PPP loan. Thus the figures are somewhat misleading, but we can still be reassured by our position. It is difficult to compare year to year at this time.

Discussion: Much of our loss was related to the daycare being inoperative during Covid; and much of the PPP loan was used to pay those employees, which was our obligation.

A motion to accept the report was made, seconded and adopted without further discussion.

Stewardship: At the last meeting, we discussed the 2022 Vestry Stewardship statement. A revision was read and was felt to be closer to what was desired. Most of the Vestry had already signed and additional signatures were recorded. No dissents were recorded.

We have received an additional \$50K gift and have decided to put it toward a new phone system. The current one was purchased used, is 6–8 years old and is so

antiquated that it has required extra outlays to use it. The funds will also be put towards website redevelopment. The Alleluia Fund is up to \$202K thanks to this gift.

Rector's commentary: This is the first discretionary use of the Alleluia Fund. Other outlays have been mandatory (emergency/delayed maintenance). The remaining delayed maintenance items are more expensive, six figures.

There will be stewardship talks in upcoming Sundays: Carl and Frankie Eichenberger in person on Oct. 10, and Rachel and Peter Martens on Oct. 17. Pledge Sunday is Oct 24. Parishioners will carry their pledge cards up to the altar, and there will be pancakes after the 8 and 10 a.m. service.

Parish Life: The report was given by Harrison Heil and Laurie Brown. The Racial Reconciliation Ministry will give a class, Introducing Sacred Ground, during education hour (9 a.m. Sundays). The introduction is a survey of the course. Concurrently Harrison is taking the full course through the commission on dismantling racism. We still need to raise awareness at CSMSG. Also, through the commission we are making contacts with other congregations and may be able to have joint events in church or in the community. Matt Barickman will be the other facilitator.

On Nov. 7 there will be a bus tour through the History Museum called "Exploring the Delmar Divide", leaving after worship (11:30-1:30) taking us from North to South City to see the built environment and learn how they've changed, and the racial implications. This will be publicized at the ministry fair on Oct 3.

We will host the Absalom Jones celebration on Feb. 9. Harry Moppins will be organizing a choir and the Bishop will preside. The Rev. William Barber may be part of this. We do not know if this will be fully in person or streaming. We have the ability to stream to the web and take this service farther out in the diocese.

The ministry together with St. Timothy's is holding a working group focusing on education equity: Inform, Educate and Connect. The idea is to provide a resource to congregations in the diocese to help members engage with issues of racial disparity. The Inform piece documents that there is inequity (e.g., test scores); Educate will show why it's still an issue; and Connect will be a directory of advocacy opportunities. The education equity ministry may end up on that list of resources so that smaller congregations can tap in. There is interest in advocacy among the parish, specifically in education equity. Further involvement is a big decision for the congregation; this program lets individual members of the congregation step out.

Laurie stated that an email from the Rector went out to the ushers to ask them to be vaccinated (for Christ's sake). "99%" of them are. She indicated that Welcome Weekend would be the following Friday, including food trucks (pizza, hot dogs, bratwurst, gyros). Bartenders and setup crews were requested. Greeters were requested for Saturday, and bartenders for St. Michael's Sunday.

Rector's Report: Last weekend was the 20th anniversary of 9/11. This was observed with a set of prayers at 8 and 10 a.m. in the body of the eucharistic prayer, Rite II, form D. Complaints were received to the effect that these prayers were insufficiently Elizabethan in tone. Has our generation fallen so far that we cannot be moved by remembering the death of thousands? It was our first Sunday back, celebrating Rite II, omitting the Gloria, having an epistle reading—these comments may simply show there were too many changes. We will not be using Rite II in general, other than for baptisms for which this is prescribed. It may be appropriate for the Rector to send a note to the Parish about the “new normal.”

Kate Harris has resigned from the Vestry, as other obligations prevent her from attending to her duties. We hope she will serve again in the future.

At the end of the month we will have done 20 funerals this year. There are usually 24 in the whole year. There were very few in 2020. We are ahead in baptisms as well (12).

Senior Warden's Report: The Warden noted that the congregation was responding well to the pandemic, as were the staff. We have identified things that need to be changed, and people do not like change. Habits are incredibly powerful, but changes can make us think about what we are doing and saying.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 8-26-21 were reviewed. Acceptance of the minutes was moved, seconded and adopted.

New Business: Fr. Peter raised the matter of the presentation of the gifts. The Book of Common Prayer calls for the gifts to be presented by parishioners at the offering, and we will begin doing so.

Laurie noted that Vestry nametags are back in the basket in the Wydown narthex.

Upcoming Dates: The next regular Vestry meeting will be Thursday, October 21, 2021. The Vestry retreat 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