

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

Thursday, May 12, 2022

Vestry Members in Attendance: The Rev. Andrew Archie, Ian Hagemann (*Clerk*), Betsy Panke (*Jr. Warden*), Will Springer, Bill Wallace, Barry Kirk, Mary Katherine Ray, Joe Sheehan (*Sr. Warden*), Ruth Ezell, David Ott (*Treasurer*), Daniel Smith

Clergy Assistants in Attendance: Fr. Peter Speropulos, Fr. Tom Albinson

Guests: Laurie Brown (*Parish Life*), Sonya Woolley (*Administrator*)

Vestry Members Not in Attendance: Carl Eichenberger, Rachel Martens, Peter C. Smith, Nancy Reynolds

Attachments/Handouts: Vestry Agenda, 2022-5-11 Vestry Financials, December 2021 Attendance, January 2022 Attendance, February 2022 Attendance, March 2022 Attendance, April 2022 Attendance, CV of Nick Bideler, Vestry Minutes 11-18-2021, Vestry Minutes 1-25-2022, Vestry Minutes 2-18-22, Link to CSMSG Profile in iSeek, Legend Singers flyer, Seven Ministry Fundraiser program

Proceedings: Fr. Peter Speropulos gave the invocation and all members of the Vestry gave thanks for events in their life.

Parish Life: There were over 335 at 10 am on Easter, plus over 100 on the live stream. We are hosting a concert on May 15 by the Legends Singers, celebrating their 80th year of singing the music of Black composers. There are 120 registered as of now, only 15 of whom are parishioners—the rest of them guests. On May 22 we will hold our Seven Ministry fundraiser with a tiki theme. There will be two food trucks, a paella station, Barry's tiki bar, a steel band, 20 silent auction items and 8 live auction items. On Sunday, Fr. Andrew will address the graduating seniors. The annual Memorial Day picnic will be May 29.

Finance: A 2021 handout was inadvertently distributed by email. The figures for this year are more favorable. Year to date, we are \$58K favorable to budget, although \$35K in the red. We are losing money, but not as much as we thought we were. Acceptance of the report was moved, seconded and adopted by acclamation.

Stewardship: Historically we have applied for a family foundation grant in March. This year the intent was to recarpet the Great Hall and tower stairs, but needed to add the phone system repair, bringing us to a \$105K request. The Diocese offers a \$5K matching grant for which we have never applied, which we would use to fix the leak in the kitchen and Sverdrup room—one of the last known roofing issues. In March we wrote to 69 families who did not pledge in the past two years, bringing 13 pledges for

\$39K. The goal this year is to get back to the pre-pandemic number of pledges. Thank you to several Vestry members who have made phone calls.

Rector's Report: Fr. Tom anticipates taking paternity leave in August. This need highlights the understaffing in the church. During this time, Revs. Clem and Kelsey are available to help, but the real press will come in pastoral demand. This month we have had two funerals of persons only marginally connected to the parish, which we are happy to do, but will have to be cautious of during this period. Dr. Nick Bideler has accepted to become the full-time organist and choirmaster. A posting for an assistant organist is forthcoming. The Rector observed that we live in perilous times. Political realities will make it difficult to hire clergy and will make it difficult to pastor to those in difficulty. The language of current discussions has been couched in religious terms, which could repel some.

Senior Warden's Report: A written summary and encouragement was previously circulated. Challenges should be viewed as opportunities. For those who may be uncomfortable in their current church, CSMSG is an excellent place to come and meet God. When the Episcopal Church was in disarray some years ago, the decision to serve the parishioners of this congregation was the right one. We can find room for multiple political persuasions here.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of minutes from November 2021, January 2022, and February 2022 was separately moved, seconded and adopted.

New Business: None

Upcoming Dates: The next meeting will be June 23, 2022 (new date). The August meeting will be canceled and a replacement scheduled on September 1. A decision can be made later as to whether a regular September meeting is needed three weeks later.

The Vestry adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Hagemann, Clerk of the Vestry