

St. John's Parish  
Vestry Minutes  
Wednesday, Feb 15, 2023 7:00 p.m.  
Meeting conducted in St.Mary's Chapel and via Zoom on the Internet

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89985557543?pwd=a3JSbHJKQnJjRGtWdjgzRTFjUysxUT09> Meeting ID: 899 8555 7543 Dial by your location Passcode: 191490 +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Present: Fr. Todd Young, Rector; Deanna Soulis, Jr. Warden; Deacon Sue Wert; Will Godwin; Betty Markle; David Davis; Bob Speelman, Sr. Warden; Sue Ellen Spotts; Evvie Williams; David McKinley; Katherine Foreman; Chris Tischer; Bob Rauth; Mark Halsey, Peg Brown, Jennifer Sealing

- I. Meeting called to order 7:00p.m.
  - a. Pursuant to the authority MD Code Corporations & Associations Section 2-409(d), the Vestry held a meeting in which the people listed above participated.
  - b. Sr. Warden Bob Speelman declared a quorum had been reached. The meeting was called to order.
  - c. The Vestry members could hear all others participating in the telephonic meeting.
  - d. Each had an opportunity to express opinions on the subjects discussed and to cast a vote on motions.
  - e. Opening prayer
    - i. A reading from Isaiah Chapter 52: 7-10 by Chris Tischer
    - ii. Fr. Todd informed the Vestry that today is the Feast Day of Thomas Bray, a Priest from England. He came to the Colonies circa 1696, started a school and advocated for the oppressed. This evening's reading from Isaiah is the Old Testament reading on his feast day. Fr. Todd asked the Vestry what they heard in the passage. Various Vestry replied they heard ...to be joyful, strength, this passage leans us forward, community, the people of God are to announce his kingdom.
    - iii. Among the prayers that were read together were the Song of Mary, BCP. 119, The Apostles Creed, BCP. 120, The Lord's Prayer, The General Thanksgiving BCP. 125, A Collect for Protection BCP. 124
- II. Approval of January 22, 2023 minutes
  - a. A motion was made by Evvie Williams and seconded by David Davis to approve the minutes of the Jan. 22 meeting.
  - b. The following corrections to the minutes of the January 22 meeting were made.
    - i. V. New Business
      - d. Payment to Mark King for unused vacation.
        - i. A motion was made by Fr. Todd Young and seconded by David Davis to pay Mark King for unused vacation.
        - li. A motion was made by David Davis and seconded by Evvie Williams to pay Mark King a severance bonus of 55 hours of pay at the current hourly rate. The motion carries.
  - c. A motion was made by David Davis and seconded by Chris Tischer to approve the minutes of the January 22 meeting as corrected. The motion carries.
- III. Reports
  - a. Treasurer: Katherine Foreman written report submitted and archived
  - b. Rector: Fr. Todd Young written report submitted and archived
    - i. Verbal report
      1. A notice was received from Bishop Ihloff that Kelly Gearhart was moved from active to postponed Postulant.
      2. Fr. Todd says Kelly still has 4 years to move through the process.
      3. Kelly will continue to work at St. John's.
  - c. Deacon Sue: Written report as submitted and archived.
    - i. Verbal report
      1. The clothing drive continues and is accepting clothes.
      2. Many of the clothes go to "Families Helping Families".
      3. Jeff Rowe was identified as the Director of "Families Helping Families".
      4. Deacon Sue intermittently writes and delivers sermons.
  - d. Sr. Warden: Written report as submitted and archived
    - i. Verbal report
      1. Sr. Warden Bob Speelman is getting ready for the Vestry retreat.
  - e. Jr. Warden: Written report as submitted and archived
    - i. Verbal report
      1. Commission reports are due Wednesday March 15
      2. All help is accepted for Pride Day, Saturday July 8

3. A meeting with Commission chairs will be held Sunday, March 12 in the teen room

4. Soup, bread, and Lenten studies begin at 6pm each Wednesday through March.

f. St. John's Shelter

#### IV. Old Business

##### a. Communication Tech Position

i. A suggestion was made to advertise for the tech position on our website. A contact for this would be Pieter Bickford or Fr. Todd.

ii. A question was asked could we put the advertisement on our FB page. Susan Rauth is the person to e-mail about this request.

#### V. New Business

##### a. Commissions

i. A motion was made by Fr. Todd and seconded by Deana Soulis to pay St. John's shelter \$5,433.00 as a donation for their insurance. The motion carries.

ii. An amendment to the motion was made as follows:

1. A motion was made by Fr. Todd and seconded by David Davis to pay St. John's shelter \$5,433.00 as a donation for their insurance, half of that amount to come from the Service and Outreach Endowment fund. The motion carries.

iii. The next Vestry meeting is March 22.

#### VI. Regular

a. Approval of payment of \$8,000 from the Assistant to the Rector Endowment Fund to cover relocation cost of John Sabine, our new Minister of Music.

i. A motion was made by Evvie Williams and seconded by Bob Rauth to approve the payment of \$8,000.00 from the Assistant to the Rector Endowment Fund to cover the relocation cost of John Sabine, our new Minister of Music. The motion does not carry.

ii. A discussion followed among various Vestry as to where to take the \$8,000.00 to cover relocation costs of John Sabine.

iii. A motion was made by David Davis and seconded by Betty Markle for approval of the promised \$8,000.00 out of the Operating Fund to cover relocation costs and refer to the Stewardship Commission to sort out. The motion carries.

b. Vestry retreat to be held at St. John's Episcopal Church on February 25.

i. Sandi Cormack (Sp?) will be there in the afternoon.

ii. Retreat is scheduled to run from 9-4pm

c. Approval of 2022 Parochial Report

i. A motion was made by David Davis and seconded by Bob Rauth to approve the 2022 Parochial Report. The motion carries.

#### V. Commission Reports

a. Welcoming written report submitted and archived

b. Christian Stewardship written report submitted and archived

i. Gary Heichel is the new chair of Christian Stewardship

c. Service and Outreach written report submitted and archived

d. Parish Life written report as submitted and archived

i. The Pot Luck lunch of March 12 planned after the 10:15am service is canceled. Regular coffee hour that day.

ii. Shrove Tuesday pancake supper is Tuesday, February 21

e. Fabric and Grounds written report submitted and archived

f. Christian Formation

i. Verbal report Sue Ellen Spotts

1. Sunday school has started. There were 2 children in class the first week and 8 people in the adult class with room for many more.

2. Christian Formation is exploring the idea that children can do outreach in the community in lieu of VBS.

3. Three people have signed up for the College of Congregational Development to be held at Claggett. So far, Sue Ellen Spotts, Fr. Todd Young, and Susan Rauth have signed up,

g. Spiritual Life Ministry

i. Verbal Report Evvie Williams

1. The altar guild is doing well

ii. Chris Tischer volunteered to temporarily start the music for the Taize service.

iii. Mid week services are still going well

#### VI. Topics the Rector, Sr. Warden, and Jr. Warden need to be aware of

a. Various Vestry had questions about the voting procedure at the annual meeting and when it would be discussed among the Wardens. The answer from a Warden was that it would not be long before it would be discussed.

b. A brief discussion was held around an article introduced by Peg Brown about bringing younger people into the church.

c. The safety of the congregational community in this time of COVID was a topic of discussion.

d. A question was asked has there been any attempt to bring people back to church that we have not seen for awhile.

i. We need to do something more intentional to bring people back. There were suggestions for example, pastoral care taking altar flowers to parishioners

VII. Topics to be promptly communicated to Parish

VIII. Compline Officiant David Davis

i. Readings from BCP 127, Lord's Prayer

ii. Psalm 91

IX. Adjournment

i. Sr. Warden Bob Speelman adjourned the meeting at 8:40pm.

X Good of the Order

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Morin, Registrar