

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, JOHNSTOWN
MINUTES OF VESTRY MEETING
November 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm in ONE CHURCH STREET

IN ATTENDANCE: Nancy Marucci (Sn. Warden), Karl Christensen (Jn. Warden), Maggie Clark (Treas.), Mtr. Laurie Garramone, Katy Grady, Audrey Kline, Stella Williams, Jeff Brown, Mike Haverly, Fr. Alistair Morrison.

NOT ATTENDING: Roger Rhodes, Jen Rowland (Clerk)

BIBLE READING: Advent in Two Minutes (video)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 2018

Deferred to the December meeting

ACTION LIST FROM OCTOBER 2018 MINUTES:

- **Internet Supplier, Church** - Mike H. presented an estimate from Spectrum for internet and phone service to the church building. Potential saving would amount to \$340/month (\$4,080/year). Two wireless options were presented, and option 1 was chosen as it provided the ability to remove other connected devices during Sunday services. Mike H. also agreed to research the internet and phone service at One Church Street.
A motion to terminate the existing contract with Frontier and appoint Spectrum to provide internet and phone service, using option 1, in the church building was proposed by Nancy M. and seconded by Katy G. Motion carried.

REPORTS

a. Treasurer - Maggie Clark

- **Report** - Maggie C. reported the following figures (see also submitted report):
October 2018:

Total Income	\$ 17,449.14
Total Expenses	\$ 19,309.30
Net Ordinary Income	\$ (1,860.16)
Checking Operating Acc.	\$ 16,467.43
- **2018 Pledges** - Maggie C. reported that, as of Nov 26, 92% (\$159,979) of 2018 pledges (\$170,629) had been received.
A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Karl Christensen and seconded by Jeff Brown. Motion carried.
- **2019 Pledges** - Maggie C. reported, as of Nov 26, pledges made for 2019 amounted to a total of \$106,924. A likely projected pledge total for 2019 has been estimated at \$163,829, a fall in pledge giving from 2018 of \$6,800.

- **2019 Budget** - Maggie C. presented a proposed budget for 2019 for consideration and would be moved for approval at the December meeting of Vestry.

Total 2019 Income	\$ 224,000.00
Total 2019 Expenses	\$ 272,839.00
Net Ordinary 2019 Income	\$ (48,839.00)

b. Buildings and Grounds - Karl Christensen

- **Boiler, One Church St.** - Mtr. Laurie reported the boiler system shut down on Nov. 23 (Black Friday) due to burned out switches. Adirondack Mechanical suggested using boiler specialist to check out the boiler electrics. The specialists replaced the damaged switches and recommended a complete overhaul of the existing boiler. Mtr. Laurie agreed to contact the boiler specialists for an estimate.
- **Garage Roof, Rectory** - Karl C. presented an estimate from Putman Enterprises for the repair of the garage roof. Putman offered two options.
 1. Repair roof on garage: 8,451.00
 2. Replace roof on garage 11,097.00

Putman was confident option 1 would repair the leak but was unsure if it would structurally strengthen the garage and recommended option 2 as the better solution. Jeff B. undertook to contact Tim Derwin to discuss the roof repairs and obtaining another estimate.

A motion to authorize Mtr. Laurie to accept a quote on the recommendation of Karl C. and Jim D'Amore and after notification to the vestry, within the range of \$8,000-\$15,000, to repair/replace the garage roof (funds to be withdrawn from endowment and transferred to the Operating Account for payment) was proposed by Audrey K. and seconded by Katy. Motion carried.

- **Repairs to Bell, Church** - Mtr. Laurie reported that the bell repair company had not yet been in touch to discuss if replacement parts would be required. Ongoing.

c. Rector - Rev. Laurie Garramone

- **Report** - See submitted report.
- **Columbarium, Interment** - Mtr. Laurie reported that she had received a request from a Mr. Karl Martin to have his late wife, Phyllis' ashes interred in the new columbarium. It was agreed that Mr. Martin could two purchase spaces for his late wife and himself at \$400/person.

A motion to approve Mr. Karl Martin's request to have his late wife's ashes interred in the new columbarium, and potentially his own ashes, at a cost of \$400 per person, was proposed by Nancy M. and seconded by Mike H. Motion carried.
- **Columbarium Committee** - It was agreed to form a new Columbarium Committee, reporting back to the vestry, and the following persons were proposed for membership: Holly Chamberlin, Nancy Marucci, Dan Ehle, Katy Grady. First meeting to be held in January 2019.
- **Reaction to Bishop's Letter and Pastoral Directive in response to B012** - Mtr. Laurie reported that an open meeting to discuss the Bishop's Letter and Pastoral Directive had been held, following the Sunday Service, on Nov. 25. Opinions were expressed both in opposition to and in support of the Bishop's letter and Pastoral Directive. Mtr. Laurie indicated that she was in support of the Pastoral Directive as there was no positive affirmation of same-sex marriage in Holy Scripture, however

expressed her desire that St. John's would continue to be a place of extravagant welcome for everyone.

Audrey K. presented a letter from a concerned parishioner who recommended that the vestry should:

1. Create a "tool of dissention" a symbol or action to proclaim St. John's stands against Bishop Love's Letter.
2. Ensure teaching be given to families and young people in church.
3. Agree a "core value statement" that St. John's would be a "progressive, loving, community church".

Following discussion a response to each recommendation was agreed upon:

1. A "tool of dissention" for the whole church was not recommended as it would be divisive, however if parishioners still wanted to dissent, using a symbol or act, they could do so individually.
2. Teaching for families and young people would not be given in church, but rather in the home if a family requested it or one-to-one with a young person if necessary.
3. A core value statement had already been established in the St. John's mission statement, and it would not be changed at this time.

Audrey K. undertook to inform the concerned parishioner of the responses.

Nancy M. in her Senior Warden's Report called upon the members of the vestry at this time to, "exercise patience and to remain open and available to all members of the congregation and to one another". She also stated that, "we can politely disagree but still be strong leaders respectfully together to carry on and show unity even as we disagree".

d. Senior Warden - Nancy Marucci

- **Report** - See attached report and item on Reaction to Bishop's Letter above

e. Committee Reports

1. Special Events / Hospitality - Pam Miller / Bonnie Peters

- **Report** - None submitted.

2. Christian Education - Pam Miller

- **Report** - See submitted report.

3. Family Ministry - Stella Williams

- **Report** - None submitted.

4. Outreach - Nancy Brown

- **Operation Christian Child (OCC)** - Mtr. Laurie stated that St. John's would not be offering its premises as a collection center for Operation Christian Child next year. This year, Sacandaga Bible Camp had re-opened as a collection center and there had been a dramatic drop in shoeboxes collected at St. John's. A new outreach ministry would be chosen for next year.
- **Giving Tree** - Mtr. Laurie reported the Giving Tree was up in church. Purchases were due on December 9th.
- **Hats and Mittens** - Mtr. Laurie reported hats and mitten were being collected.

5. **Furnishings and Fixings** - Audrey Kline / Dan Ehle
 - **Easterly Plaque** - Mtr. Laurie reported the plaque had been installed in the church by Jim D'Amore.
6. **NOAH Program** - Anna Holland / Katy Grady
 - **Report** - See submitted report.
7. **Food Pantry** - Roger and Ann Rhodes / Carol McGrattan
 - **Report** - See submitted report.
8. **Historic Buildings Survey Grants** - Mtr. Laurie
 - **Historic Survey Consultants** - Ongoing.
9. **Capital Campaign Steering Committee** - Tom Bell
 - **Report** - Mtr. Laurie reported that meetings with the fundraising consultant had been temporarily put on hold as she was caring for her ill husband.
10. **Church Historians** - Rosemary Brown / Gary Miller / David Childs
 - **Report** - None submitted.
 - **Church History** - Mtr. Laurie indicated that the Church Historians would be asked to write a history of the church for the Historic Survey.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Grants** - Mtr. Laurie reported that Ann Rhodes had been busy writing grants for the Food Pantry and NOAH.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS / BLESSINGS / THANKSGIVINGS

- **Thanksgiving for St. John's** - Everyone was encouraged to write down something they were thankful for at St. John's.

REVIEW OF ACTION LIST FROM SEPTEMBER 2018

- **Internet Supplier, One Church St.** - Mike H. to research the internet and phone service.
- **Boiler Repairs, One Church St.** - Mtr. Laurie to contact boiler specialists for estimate.
- **Garage Roof, Rectory** - Jeff B. to contact Tim Derwin to discuss the roof repairs and obtaining another estimate.
- **Reaction to Bishop's Letter and Pastoral Directive in response to B012** - Audrey K. to inform the concerned parishioner of the responses to their letter.
- **Church History** - Mtr. Laurie to ask Church Historians to write a history of the church.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was proposed by Audrey K. and was seconded by Katy G. The motion was carried; meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

**Date and Time of Next Vestry Meeting
Monday, December 17 at 6.30 pm, in One Church Street**