

**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, October 15, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 11:45 am. Jeanne began the meeting with a prayer.

Members Present: Mary Rowe, Senior Warden, Cathy Behm, Christy Burch, John Carmichael, Jan Childs, Alysa Hilton, Roger Nickerson, Judy Steele, Kate Zimmer, Rev'd Jeanne Kaliszewski.

Absent: Bruce Fontaine, Junior Warden, Myra Roosevelt, Clerk, Peggy Costanzo, Deacon Greg Rainey (ex officio)

**Consent Agenda.** Items included the minutes of the September 15, 2023 meeting and the September 2023 Financial Reports. Two points under the Junior Warden's Report from the September 15, 2023 meeting were corrected to read: "Paid sexton position to be established part time" and "Larry Behm working on the grounds." It was moved by Roger, seconded by Judy, to approve the items on the Consent Agenda with the corrections to the September 15, 2023 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**A. Appointment of 2024 Vestry Nominating Committee**

Jeanne reported that at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, 1/21/2024, four Vestry positions would be open for election. Cathy Behm, John Carmichael, Peggy Costanzo and Judy Steele's are completing their terms. The Bylaws call for appointment of a Nominating Committee 90 days prior to the Vestry election. Jeanne appointed the outgoing Vestry members as the Nominating Committee, with Jeanne and Mary Rowe also participating. Announcements of the openings on Vestry and for Convention delegates will be published beginning in November and Vestry members are encouraged to make suggestions to the Nominating Committee.

**B Percentage of SRIF Bequest Ending Balance as of 9/30/2023 to Outreach Grants**

Jan reported that for the period from 10/1/2022 to 9/30/2023, the net increase in value in the SRIF Bequest Fund was \$10,000. Based on the SRIF Bequest Spending Rule Policy, the Finance Committee recommended that the Vestry authorize 5% of the ending balance for outreach grants. Following Vestry authorization of the amount to be spent, the Outreach Committee will select recipients for the grants. There were questions about the background of the fund and how money from the fund had been used for outreach grants in the past. Judy described how last yer's grant to the Children's Clothing Center had been used.

It was moved by Jan, seconded by Judy to authorize 5% (\$4,310) of the ending balance in the SRIF Bequest Fund as of September 30, 2023 for outreach grants. The motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business:**

- A. **Ministry Fair Update.** Mary reported that the Ministry Fair was very successful and thanked Alysa, Myra, Jan and Rebecca for their work. Sign-up sheets from the Ministry Fair will be scanned and sent to ministry contacts next week.
  
- B. **2024 Pledge Drive.** Jan reported that nine 2024 pledge cards have already been received. She asked that Vestry members return their pledge cards by Wednesday, October 25. She also discussed the Vestry calling of those who do not return their pledge cards by that date. The follow-up is focused on those who pledged in 2023 with some calls to others on our mailing list. Calling packets will be ready for pick-up from 9 am to 1 pm on Friday, October 27 from 9 to 11:30 am on Saturday, October 28. Packets will include sample scripts, pledge cards and calling list. Packets are to be returned by Friday, November 3.
  
- C. **Welcome Sunday.** Mary reported Alysa, Myra and Cathy Cowherd will be working on the event to welcome newcomers on Sunday, November 19. Welcome Sunday is being held in conjunction with Thank You Sunday again this year, to celebrate both newcomers and 2024 pledgers. The Vestry will host the coffee hour.
  
- D. **Warming Shelter.** Mary reported on a conversation she and Jeanne had with Ann Ober, Milwaukie City Manager and representatives of “My Father’s Heart” in Oregon City. It was learned that the 90-day opening for the shelter budgeted in our report was based on the County standard to receive County funding for shelter support. Jeanne reported that establishment of the four committees described in the proposal presented to the Vestry in September was underway and that an initial joint meeting of the committees will occur in November. The committees are: Engagement, Security, Supplies and Staffing and Administration. The goal is that the committees have initial reports for next steps at the annual meeting. The Rev’d Chris Craun suggested using facilitators for the congregation and community meetings to be held next year. It is hoped that the Vestry can make a decision by April/May 2024.
  
- E. **Volunteering at My Father’s Heart.** Mary suggested that those who wished to have direct experience with a warming shelter could volunteer at My Father’s Heart in Oregon City. Jamie Berry will help coordinate teams from St. John’s interested in volunteering.

## **Reports:**

### **A. Deacon:** Greg forwarded his report to Jeanne.

- the Eucharistic Visitor (EV) training has occurred, with another session needed for those who could not attend. The Eucharistic Visitors will be commissioned and a “Going Forth” prayer for Eucharistic Visitors will be added to the bulletin when the program resumes.
- A training for Eucharistic Ministers will be scheduled soon. There are two new EM’s at the 8 am service and more Ems are needed for the 10 am service.
- Bishop Diana will visit St. John’s on 3/17/2024. Hope to have folks for confirmation/reaffirmation, reception at that time. Looking toward classes for children and adults.
- In conversation about starting a Veteran’s ministry group at St. John’s

### **B. Rector:** Jeanne

- Diocesan Convention coming up. Trinity will host participants.
- Grief Group beginning in November. Trinity, St. Philips and St. John’s submitted a grant request which was approved. A professional counselor will be funded by the grant. 2 meetings per month, one in-person, one online.
- At Credo in November, an event for clergy put on by the Church Pension Group with workshops on spiritual, physical and financial health. Will miss All Saint’s Day and November Taize. Rev. Mark Stanger will be our Supply Priest.
- Advent and Christmas are coming. Three services on Sunday, December 24, which is both Advent 4 and Christmas Eve: 8 am service, Advent 4; 10 am service, Family Service/Children’s pageant; 8 pm service, Christmas Eve. There will be no service on December 25, Christmas Day.
- Continues to serve on Commission on Ministry and Engaging Racial Justice Working Group for the Diocese.
- Great photos from St. Francis Day. Thanks to Thomas Rainey who took photos.
- Would like to explore ways to engage the congregation in discussion about financial stewardship beyond the fall pledge drive. It was suggested that parishioners provide short statements of what St. John’s means to them and why they pledge.
- Taize service resumed in October and is scheduled for the first Sundays in November and December as well.
- A Girl Scout troop, led by Sarah Thorston and other parents, is meeting in the Parish Hall every other Tuesday evening.

- J.T. Quanbeck, St. Michael & All Angels helped adjust sound levels on the microphones and will be working with Ben, Alec and Rob to improve the quality. Zoom has poor sound quality and we are looking to replace with Vimeo to stream to UTube and Facebook.
- New bookstore. Spoke and Word Books at 10863 SE Main Street is opening Saturday, October 21.

**C. Senior Warden:** Mary Rowe

- Many of current activities – welcome, warming shelter – already covered.
- Creation Care ministry starting to form mission, will be looking at both personal and parish work.
- Oaks Bottom walk was great!
- Researching large-print Prayer Books and Hymnals. Order 2-3 to start and get feedback.
- Researching tcoil to pair up with hearing aids for hearing impaired. Judy Steele volunteered to check with an audiologist on options.

**D. Junior Warden:** No report – out of town.

**Ministry Teams**

Judy Steele reported on the Children’s Clothing Center. Every week so far has been full. Church of Christ provided socks and underwear this year, hope to continue partnership with them in the future.

It was asked if more than one Vestry member could make a report for a ministry category – ie, separate reports for Pastoral Care and Outreach under the Community Outreach and Pastoral Care ministry category. The answer is yes!

The Vestry contacts will be added to the list of ministry categories for future agendas.

**Good of the Order:**

- Vestry meetings will begin at 11:30 unless otherwise noted. November Vestry meeting is the date for Welcome Newcomers and Thank You Sunday, the start-time may be delayed.
- Kate Zimmer mentioned that she is no longer authorized to post to Facebook and that we do not have an Instagram account. She offered to post.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm. Jeanne closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectively submitted,  
Jan Childs, Clerk pro tem

10/23/2023

