

VESTRY MEETING
September 17, 2024
St. John's Episcopal Church – Midland, MI

Members In Attendance: Alissa Anderson, Deb Blackhurst, Eric Carlson, Angela Garcia, Eric Heglin, Gail Hoffman, Sue Rye, Fred Schuster, Paul Tolly. **Guest:** Lowell Youngquist.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

Growth & Learning

Prayer: Reverend Alissa asked for opinions on public praying versus private praying. There was then two minutes of quiet contemplation for prayer requests. The prayers were then completed.

Business

- Eric Heglin has been appointed by unanimous acclamation to be the clerk.
- Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve by Gail Hoffman; seconded by Angela Garcia; passed.
- Consent Agenda: Without objection, declared approved.
- Approval of Minutes for August meeting: Motion to approve by Eric Carlson; seconded by Fred Schuster; passed.

Discussion Agenda

- **Sources of Transformation:** The College for Congressional Development (CCD) interviews went well. There has been a very positive response to them. More interviews are being conducted and the results will be published when completed.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Lowell Youngquist reported cash on hand in Horizon Bank of \$173,000 as of August 31. (In September, \$115,000 will pay the down payment for the new organ, and \$49,000 will be deposited to Horizon Bank from BNY.) BNY Mellon savings is \$110,000. Auditing financial records for years 2021 through 2023 is continuing and should be finished by the end of 2024. Revenue for August was \$130,000 (vs. budget of \$85,000) although pledge income was \$5,000 below budget. (Organ donations and columbarium reservation fees provided extra.) Expenses other than salary/benefits were \$29,000 (vs. budget of \$62,000). There were no capital expenditures; the parking lot work will be paid in September, as will the deposit on the new organ.
- **Second Sunday Sharing:** The attendance for September's Ministry Fair was great. People were asking when the next Ministry fair would take place. For October 13, the subject is Buildings and Grounds.
- **Trunk or Treat (October 20):** The Welcoming Committee is hosting Trunk or Treat Sunday, October 20 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM in the St. John's parking lot. There is hope that this will become an annual event. Different ministries of the church are encouraged to sponsor a vehicle. The Vestry was asked to sponsor a Trunk. Several Vestry members are sponsoring other Trunks so the Vestry declined. Setup will begin at 2:00 PM. Having games at the vehicles for extra fun is encouraged. There will be an award for the best decorated vehicle. If there is rain Trunk or Treat will be postponed until Sunday, October 27.
- **Lease with MCFAN (Midland County Food Assistance Network):** Dana Pressnall let St. John's know that SAMS Pantry's lease is up in a year. The Vestry will ask Dana and Anthony Dizon-Webb to attend the next Vestry meeting for information and discussion. Reverend Alissa will request a copy of the lease.

Action Agenda

- **Motion:** “That the fee structure for columbarium reservation be changed to read as follows: **The current one-time fee for the Right of Interment in the Columbarium is \$1,750.00 for one person, and \$2,200.00 for two people. The payer of this fee becomes the “Owner” of the niche. This fee includes either one or two urns, and either one or two bronze plaques identifying the persons in the niche, depending on the fee paid, and all costs directly associated with the interment. Individuals who reserve and pay for a niche for one person may add a second person later by paying the difference in fees (\$450.00).** This new fee structure will take effect on January 1, 2025.”

Eric Carlson moves to adopt the new fee structure. Seconded by Deb Blackhurst; passed.

- **Motion:** “The Vestry recommends to the parish the adoption of the following additions to and amendments of the existing by-laws:
Article IX. Other Committees
9.1 Committees. The committees of the congregation, in addition to the Vestry and Endowment Committee, are: Pastoral Care Committee, Building and Grounds Committee, Finance Committee. Such other committees as may be considered necessary may be created by the Rector with the advice and consent of the Vestry.
9.2 Membership. Except for the Vestry and the Endowment Committee, the Rector shall appoint such persons to these committees as seems appropriate. The number of members is not fixed. Members serve at the pleasure of the Rector; there are no fixed terms. When the position of Rector is vacant, the Vestry may appoint new members to committees as needed to carry out the work of the committee.
9.3 Committee Chairs. Each committee shall elect its chair annually at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting, and shall report the name of the chair to the Rector and Vestry. Chairs may be re-elected.
9.4 Ad Hoc Committees. Ad hoc committees may be formed for limited periods of time as necessary.”

In addition, the current Articles IX, X, and XI shall be renumbered X, XI, XII.”

Eric Carlson moves to adopt the changes. Seconded by Fred Schuster; passed.

- Due to a miscommunication, we never dealt with the stipend for Debra Rienstra’s talk. It needs to be charged to the Speakers and Consultants budget line, but there is no money in that line because we didn’t anticipate any speakers when we passed the budget. We need to approve the stipend (plus a small incidental expense) of \$1010.00 and also approve an offsetting draw from the Ball and Williams Funds of the endowment, which are earmarked for Christian education.
Motion: The Vestry approves payment of \$1010.00 to Debra Rienstra and instructs the Treasurer to have BNY Mellon draw \$505.00 from the Ball fund and \$505.00 from the Williams fund, to be deposited into the general account at Horizon Bank.

Eric Carlson so moves. Seconded by Angela Garcia; passed.

- **Motion:** The Endowment Committee moves the Vestry to approve a \$20,000 grant to "LEAD" of Midland (formerly self love beauty) for updates and enhancements to their online learning platform. Seconded by Gail Hoffman; passed.

- **Motion:** To approve Everett Carpet and Flooring's bid to replace the carpet in Williams Hall and renew the bathroom for \$25,808.00 is moved by Eric Carlson; seconded by Angela Garcia; passed.

Review of Action Items

- Compose motion on the columbarium fee restructure and the annual election of committee chairs. (Eric Carlson) - **done**
- Interviews. Send to Alissa (all) - **ongoing**

Summary of New Action Items

- Contact Denée Koonce about Trunk or Treat - Eric Carlson
- Work with Ellen Woodard on columbarium handout - Eric Carlson
- Notify Lowell Youngquist about Ball and Williams funds draws - Eric Carlson
- Find and acquire MCFAN lease and check with Dana and Anthony about attending a Vestry meeting - Reverend Alissa
- Tell Building and Grounds that carpeting is approved - Deb Blackhurst
- Talk to Reverend Alissa about public prayer - All Vestry members

Executive Session

Closing prayer. Motion to adjourn by Paul Tolly; seconded by Fred Schuster; passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.