

VESTRY MEETING
January, 21, 2025
St. John's Episcopal Church – Midland, MI

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

Meeting called to order at 6:31 pm.

Growth & Learning

Reverend Alissa asked for prayer requests. The Vestry was also invited to share one way that we have seen God at work through our time on Vestry. Reverend Alissa then led a prayer with all the requests.

Business

- Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve by Eric Heglin; seconded by Eric Carlson; passed.
- Consent Agenda: Without objection, declared approved.
- Approval of Minutes for December meeting: Motion to approve by Eric Carlson; seconded by Fred Schuster; passed.

Discussion Agenda

- Treasurer's Report: Cash on hand as of December 31 = \$184,000. **December Financials** Revenue = \$126,000 vs. \$85,000 (Budget) and Expenses = \$101,000 vs. \$101,000 (Budget), **Year to Date Financials** Revenue = \$1,100,000 vs. \$1,020,000 (Budget) and Expenses = \$1,067,000 vs. \$1,211,000 (Budget)
- The Cloister Garden project was discussed. Buildings and Grounds will be informed that the large "big dig" project is not going forward at this time. There are some pretty reasonable bids coming in to keep the garden maintained in the summer. The field stone in the garden is a trip hazard. The intention is to replace the field stone with "pavers" for a continuous walking surface. Wright Landscaping submitted the most reasonable bid for the project.
- The preschool draft Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the church and the preschool was discussed. The draft memo looks good. The preschool is also thinking about opting for a 12 month lease.
- The Second Sunday Sharing (SSS) template was looked at. It didn't need any changes. February SSS is about Dismantling Racism. March's SSS will be information about SAMS pantry. Scribes and facilitators will be set up at the Vestry retreat on February 8.
- Rector's 2025 and beyond goals: Build relationships. Strengthen church structure and organization for a solid foundation. Cultivate spiritual growth and a spirit of formation at St. John's. Incorporate learnings from the College for Congregational Development formation week. Prioritize personal wellness and healthy boundaries to support sustainable ministry.

Action Agenda

- Eric Carlson moves to ratify the e-mail vote to approve the 2025 endowment draw schedule; seconded by Fred Schuster; passed.
- Fred Schuster moves to accept the 2025 budget recommended by the Budget Committee; seconded by Gail Hoffman; passed.
- Eric Carlson moves to establish a reserve fund for major expenses and to start that fund with \$25,000 cash from 2024's surplus with the intention of making annual additions; seconded by Gail Hoffman; passed.

- Eric Carlson moves to approve the Moltus bid for the interior brick work to not exceed \$16,000; seconded by Angela Garcia; passed
- Paul Tolly moves to approve the slate of nominees (Three for Vestry, three for Diocesan Convention delegates and one for alternate, three 3-year terms and one 1-year term for the Endowment Committee); seconded by Gail Hoffman; passed.

Review of Action Items

- Draft a new Second Sunday Sharing checklist. – Eric Carlson; done
- Draft a Second Sunday Sharing report template. – Deb Blackhurst; done
- Follow up on Second Sunday Sharing evaluations. – Sue Rye, Paul Tolly, Deb Blackhurst, Eric Carlson; Eric Carlson and Deb Blackhurst are done. Otherwise ongoing.
- >>>>>> Establish and communicate 2025 sick leave policy to SJEC employees. – Alissa Anderson; done
- Gail will send the stewardship committee spreadsheet to Reverend Alissa for review. – Alissa Anderson; done

Summary of New Action Items

- Inform the B&G committee more specific details about the pavers and future projects. - Deb Blackhurst
- Report the 2025 budget to Colleen and the parish. - Eric Carlson
- Communicate the draft Memo of Understanding to the preschool. -Alissa Anderson

Closing prayer. Motion to adjourn by Angela Garcia; seconded by Eric Heglin; passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM.