**3.15.22 Vestry Minutes**

Present: Mtr Tracy Wells Miller, Joanna Phillips, Alliee DeArmond, Nelson Crandall, Kathy Butler, Win Fernald, Antonette Wood, Chris Rowen, Nancy Shephard, Jon Showalter, Debra Spencer (notes).

Guests: Thomasjohn Wells Miller, Deacon Joan Anderson, Susan and Jim vonSchmacht, Anne Baker, Karen Greenleaf, Evgenia Mirfild (Santa Cruz Scouting professional)

Alliee prayed us in and led us in check-in.

**Consent Agenda:**

* No Parochial Report yet. Mtr. Tracy will email it to us for approval (no one objected to this). Nelson will set it up on Docusign so we can sign it. (Our next meeting is April 26 instead of during Easter week, and the report needs to be in to the diocese before then.)
* Alliee requested the Outreach Charge be removed from the Consent Agenda, so it was.
* Win moved and Chris seconded approval of the February vestry minutes, pending correction of the spelling of Win’s name. The consent agenda, consisting only of the minutes of the February meeting, was approved unanimously.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Nelson noted several things:

* Reimbursement for retreat booked as fundraiser (didn’t know where else to put it)
* We’re ahead of budget on collections
* Bottom line: cash surplus of $11,000--according to budget, at least.
* Still some bugs in QuickBooks not worth fixing (since we’re switching to Realm Accounting)
* Nelson continues to be impressed by earning capability of Helpful Shop even though the funds for the grants were earned last year. Nelson said that’s because our accounting records are kept on a cash, not accrual basis. Consistent with past practice.
* Win noted that the $28,000 in grants from Helpful Shop show up in this year’s budget  Consistent with past practice.
* Still transitioning from QuickBooks to Realm Accounting. Nelson put budget in QuickBooks manually, noticed two line items for stamps. Realm Accounting will allow for more detailed tracking of a single category like stamps to multiple ministry areas, like office and stewardship.

**Discussion Items:**

1.Jon showed draft of financial appeal request from Outreach Team.

* They ask permission to educate and appeal to congregation about donations to support specific groups outside church.
* Mtr Tracy clarified it’s not a policy but a one-year request, as periodic second offerings.
* Chris noted we have a long tradition of special appeals with target in mind and should continue this. People could give as individuals and could give to Outreach so the team could donate.
* Win said we should get feedback from those groups as to where the money goes, but he agrees with the idea.
* Alliee said it’s far better to do this than to take money out of the general budget, but the vestry should approve first: Outreach shouldn’t decide on their own. For instance, last year they asked for Adopt-a-Family help without vestry approval.
* Mtr. Tracy said that was because we’ve done it for so many years. But she said she herself should be the gate keeper. Outreach must go through her before asking the parish.
* Alliee asked to change “every two months” in the draft to “at discretion of the rector.”
* Jon agreed to do that.
* Alliee moved that we approve the concept of financial appeals to the parish from any individual or group, not just the Outreach Committee, at the discretion of the rector. Jon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2.Scouting: Evgenia Mirfild, an official of Scouting, asked St. John’s to serve as a chartering organization for a Cub Scout pack (elementary-school aged children). Susan and Jim vonSchmacht supported her request.

* Evgenia has two sons in scouting and has been employed by Scouting for six years. She outlined the purpose: character development, Personal Training, Citizenship.
* Santa Cruz County has seven packs, 140 youth (boys and girls). Evgenia’s goal is to create a pack of cub scouts sponsored by St. John’s, run by parent volunteers (it’s a family program).
* Chartering a pack includes promoting our principal values with those of Scouting, providing opportunities for public service, oversight of pack. Scouting will provide insurance and leader training. Decisions are made by a board of the district organization.
* Jim von S. said St. John’s would be an anchor in the community and emphasized community service, family oriented. Said some families decide to join the church.
* Mtr. Tracy asked if we (she) could talk to the pack about spiritual matters. The answer was yes, Scouting encourages spiritual growth.
* Nelson asked if the pack meets at the church. Evgenia said yes, Jim said or the church helps find a suitable place. Susan pointed out there’s a religious emblem scouts can earn, can learn about their own faith or others, A-Z. Evgenia said adults can too.
* Win endorsed scouting from his experience.
* Alliee asked if we have someone to represent St. John’s with the pack. Evgenia said the board will decide. Susan volunteered to throw herself under that bus” and Jim said he would too.
* Jon asked if we can review the agreement. Who recruits the kids? Evgenia  said the district organization does that.
* Jim said St. John’s can be included in the pack flag, which is a good advertisement.
* Mtr. Tracy asked Evgenia to send us all the information and said our next meeting is in April.
* Evgenia said we could vote right now. It takes about six months to start a pack.
* Mtr. Tracy said we’ll discuss it in April. She’ll email everyone the agreement for review.

3.Budget Revision:

* Jon’s tabled motion from February was discussed. Nelson explained some budget changes, especially that the surplus went up because of a canceled check.
* COPA: Mtr. Tracy said  COPA operates on a fiscal year from July-June. We’ve committed $3000 to them for the 2021-22 fiscal year. $1500 was paid in 2021 and we owe them $1500 for the first half of 2022.  Jon mentioned there’s hardly any St. John’s involvement now.
* Chris asked about AFC. Jon said that St. John’s has been very good to AFC and it won't be a problem for AFC financially this year if St. John's doesn't include the usual $3,000 for AFC in our operating budget. .
* Alliee proposed a friendly amendment to Jon’s motion to exclude COPA and AFC because they’re political organizations that some parishioners might not support. Jon rejected  the friendly amendment. It then died due to lack of a second.
* Jon’s motion is to fund all internal expenditures. (See Nelson’s Budget Surplus 2022, column titled Exploratory Fiddling, which should have been emailed to everyone.)(or read this:
* monthly organ performances ($1,200 added to provide an organist 12 Sundays in the year instead of 6 Sundays)
* contributing to the regional youth group ($3,000)
* COPA dues ($3,000)
* stewardship ($1,600)
* hospitality ($750)
* altar flowers ($400)
* rotating shelter direct expense ($300)
* Kathy proposed a friendly amendment to change the funding for COPA from $3,000 to $1,500. If we decide we want to continue as a COPA member beyond June, when our membership expires, we would need to find another source of funds to pay the first half of the 2022-23 fiscal year. Win and Debra seconded. Jon accepted the friendly amendment to his original motion.
* Chris thinks 3% pledge discount is risky and proposed raising it to 4% and proposed a friendly amendment to that effect. Jon and Debra agreed.
* Win called the question. We voted 7 out of 9 to call it. We voted 7 yes, 1 no on the motion; it passed.
* Mtr. Tracy suggested we wait to discuss the Outreach Charge until April. Jon agreed. Karen Greenleaf asked that vestry members give Outreach some suggestions to improve their draft of the charge and to send them to Michael Hudson, who will be chair next month. Jon said he would forward the email trail of the discussion on the charge to the Outreach Committee.
* Chris clarified that the feedback on the charge in the email trail Jon would be forwarding to the Outreach Committee represented the views of each individual who made comments, not the directive of the entire vestry as a whole.

4.Discernment Steering Committee Recruitment:

* We agreed committee members will represent all voices in the parish, will maintain open minds, will not drive or control discernment but will advise Linda Buskirk, our consultant.
* After much discussion, we arrived at a process that will include
* announcing the number of people to be on the committee
* recruiting specific people in person to submit their names for consideration, but also
* asking people who feel they have a ministry to help guide the discernment process to self-nominate

The people to serve on the committee must meet these criteria:

* represent all diverse parts of the congregation
* have the respect of the congregation
* be open=minded on the building issue
* have good communication skills
* Jon moved to accept these criteria and a process of selection by which names of interested parties would be gathered by individual recruitment by vestry members and also asking for people who feel called to the ministry of discernment on this committee to self-nominate. The vestry would then meet to consider the entire list of names and choose 5-7 individuals to serve on the committee. Someone seconded the motion. It passed, 7 to 1.
* Win said he would write an invitation to go into the Enews and on Realm, circulating it to the vestry for approval first. We thought we should also send it as a hard copy letter in the mail, for people who don’t read online.
* Meanwhile, we can begin to talk to people about whether they might be interested (promising nothing, making no offers of appointment to the committee) and who else they think might be interested in joining this committee.

**Goals:**

Beginning in April, we will revisit the goals we all set at the retreat to see how we’re doing. This will be done quarterly.

**Report Out to Parish:**

* Approved a revision to the 2022 budget. Additional income not included in the first version of the budget allowed us to re-fund all of the internal ministries whose funding was cut in December. (Thanks be to God!) (Include link to revised budget.)
* Approved broad criteria for a Discernment Steering Committee to work with our consultant (look for more information about that soon from your senior warden, Win Fernald).
* Heard a proposal about serving as a Charter Organization for a local Cub Scout pack. (If this is something you'd like to see St. John's pursue, please let the vestry know! [vestry@st-john-aptos.org](mailto:vestry@st-john-aptos.org).)
* In response to a request from the Outreach Committee to conduct funding appeals for outside charities, affirmed that any individual or committee can conduct funding appeals to the congregation with prior approval from the rector.

**Evaluation:**

Good progress, good listening, felt pretty comfortable, hard.

Alliee prayed us out.

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Vestry Meeting Zoom link:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/124004274](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fus02web.zoom.us%2Fj%2F124004274&data=04%7C01%7C%7C4c57069799914be3e63208da09ee0de0%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C637833215300528121%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=xEaVf1HRuYWfOLWxxmrB7EWeBBI7vSY44uHL7tTS4oI%3D&reserved=0)  
Meeting ID: 124 004 274  
Passcode: 002235  
   
The people on this mailing list are:  
   
Tracy Wells Miller, Rector, rector@st-john-aptos.org  
Nelson Crandall, Treasurer, ncrandall@enterpriselaw.com  
   
Class of 2022:  
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