

ST. AUGUSTINE'S in-the-Woods Episcopal Church
Minutes of Vestry Meeting
October 18, 2023

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by the Rev. Jennifer B. Cleveland at 3:00 P.M.

In attendance were Rev. Jenny Cleveland (Rector), Frank Shirbroun (Rector's Warden), Kathryn Beaumont (People's Warden), Stephen Schwarzmann, Mark Anderson, Elaine Ludtke, and Joan Johnson (Clerk).

Attending on Zoom: Brad Portin, Maureen Masterson, and Nancy Ruff (Treasurer)

Excused: Bernie Barker and Gail Corell

2. Reflections and Prayer: Kathryn opened the meeting by leading the Vestry in a Litany for the Middle East.

3. Learning Community Discussion: Brad led a discussion about mindsets and questions to ask as vestry members do the work of the Vestry. The article "Seven Questions to Ask Yourself If You Want to Thrive" had been posted for reading prior to the meeting.

4. Minutes:

Clerk Joan Johnson

MOTION: that the minutes of the September 6, 2023, Vestry Meeting be approved as presented

1st – Stephen

2nd – Elaine

Passed unanimously

MOTION: that the Vestry approve the following four charities as recipients for the 2023 Holiday Market proceeds: South Whidbey Schools Foundation, Oasis for Animals, Island Church Soup Kitchen, and I Support the Girls – Whidbey Island Affiliate

An e-vote was taken on this motion on September 23, 2023, and Vestry approval was unanimous.

5. Rector's Report:

The Rev. Jennifer B. Cleveland

A. Rev. Jenny's written report was posted on Google Drive. There were no questions or comments from the Vestry.

B. The Newcomer's Meeting held October 15, 2023, was well-attended with ten households represented. Participants all left with a special card and a Holiday Market soup mix.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Nancy Ruff

A. Treasurer Nancy Ruff submitted in advance her Financial Summaries, Treasurer's Reports, and Balance Sheets for the end of September. As of September 30 we are at 75% of the year, with total income and pledges at 74% of the budgeted amount and total expenses at 70%.

B. A new savings account for the church has been opened at Global Credit Union.

MOTION: that the Vestry approve Frank Shirbroun and Elaine Ludtke as authorized signers on the new Global Credit Union Savings Account

1st – Elaine

2nd – Mark

Passed unanimously

7. People's Warden's Report:*Kathryn Beaumont*

A. Kathryn reported on Island Senior Resources' decision to temporarily suspend their non-Medicaid medical transportation program. St. Augustine's has volunteers willing to drive parishioners. As long as the program is called a Transportation Ministry and the drivers have taken the Safe Church training, it is covered by the church insurance.

B. Island Senior Resources has asked to use the Undercroft once a week for their Parkinson's Ping-Pong group. A building use agreement is being drafted. One person with Safe Church training will need to be present.

C. The new website has been successfully launched and received 220 hits during the first week.

D. In an effort to centralize how church events are posted, the Communications Committee requests that all advertising (Drew's List and Whidbey Weekly) be routed through Kathryn.

8. Rector's Warden's Report:*Frank Shirbroun*

A. Frank submitted his written report on Drive. There were no questions from the Vestry.

B. Frank sent the adopted Mutual Ministry Goals to the Diocese. They will discuss them and then respond if they have any questions or suggestions.

9. Calendar Review:

A. A well-attended Blessing of the Animals was held on October 1.

B. There was discussion as to what is actually in writing regarding Nominating Committee guidelines. As a result, the official activation of this committee was postponed.

C. Stephen reminded the Vestry that they will need to appoint (or reappoint) a chair of the Endowment Fund Committee.

10. Stewardship Update:

The Stewardship Brunch is scheduled for November 12, the day following Holiday Market. It was suggested that the Vestry plan for feeding 80 – 90 parishioners and that the menu be kept simple.

(Note: Following the Vestry meeting the decision was made to postpone the one-service day and Brunch to November 19, rather than trying to have it the day after Holiday Market.)

11. Mission Sunday Offering:

MOTION: that the 2024 MSO Calendar of Recipients be approved as presented: Friends of Friends, Episcopal Relief & Development, Helping Hand, The Hub Youth Central, South Whidbey Homeless, Whidbey Veterans' Resource Center, Good Cheer Food Bank, Readiness to Learn, Gifts from the Heart Food Bank, Hearts & Hammers, Island Senior Resources' Nutrition Program, Whidbey Island Nourishes

1st – Frank2nd – Mark**Passed unanimously****12. Insurance:***Stephen Schwarzmann*

MOTION: that the Vestry approve an increase in coverage for St. Augustine's new piano to its appraised value of \$10,000 under our present Church Insurance policy with a deductible of \$1000 at a cost of an annual policy increase of \$12.00, effective as soon as possible

1st – Stephen2nd – Frank**Passed unanimously**

13. Dinners for Young Families:

- A. Three families attended the second dinner on September 17.
- B. The third dinner will be held on December 3 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. at St. Augustine’s.

14. Templates for Reports to Vestry:

In order to create uniformity Rev. Jenny and Brad have prepared a template for Vestry members and committee chairs to use when submitting reports to the Vestry. Brad will post the template in the Drive folder, and the clerk will share it with committee chairs.

15. Safety and Emergency Preparedness:

MOTION: that the Vestry authorize the committee to keep batteries and pads current for two AEDs in the church buildings

1st – Stephen

2nd – Mark

Passed unanimously

16. Closing Prayer and Adjournment:

Following a sending prayer the meeting was adjourned at 4:45.

Submitted by Joan Johnson, Vestry Clerk

Next Vestry Meeting: Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 3:00
