

Vestry Minutes January 17, 2022
6:45 p.m. St. Christopher's Parish Hall (in person)
Note: masks will be required during the meeting
(AND WELCOME Karen Hartman)

In attendance, in parish hall: Al, Jeanna, Karen, Ann, Chris, Josh, Pat, Fr. Randy, Mike, Ross, Alexander, Erin; Allison (via Zoom)

6:45 pm Randy Opening Prayer — prayer from Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the challenge is to go out and work, as if the work depended on us...help us live together, sing together...

6:50 Ann Reading of Vestry Covenant

6:55 Mike-Additions to agenda: Mike eliminating the discretionary fund? Pooled Investment Fund; Approval of Dec minutes, with 2 corrections; Al moved, Alexander seconded; passes by voice vote; Pulse of parish presenters (for services Sunday, Jan 30): Ross at 10:30; Chris at 8:00

Financial Review, including surplus explanation: Trustees of the ECMN handout Endowment Fund or Pooled Investment Fund (PIF) \$365,183 balance at start of year; \$412,603 balance at start of fourth quarter; \$475,950 at end of December. (We took about \$160,000 to replace the sewer, so we did quite well.) Distributions/draw have been averaging 5%; 4% was agreed to at the last Vestry \$15,285 was the draw for 2021. We're doing okay; decreased draw should help preserve and grow the Fund. Bylaws have guidelines on how endowment spent or used.

Surplus explanation: \$94,281 surplus at end of year, Dec. 31, 2021. How did we arrive at such a large amount, when expected a deficit budget. Contributions include: \$20,000 unexpected gift from member; PPP loan, which was forgiven (applause); \$14,000+ is savings from Fr. Randy staying at half-time salary for the entire year (instead of going full-time in August). Also saved on Fr. Randy's medical benefits costs. Chad resigned, so saved his salary and other costs. Unused funds for building cleaning, which was not done while the building was closed. In addition, some funds were not spent on certain projects that were not started/accomplished this year.

Approval of 2022 budget: Exceeded our target goal for the pledge drive and the \$94,281 surplus carries over in 2022. Fr. Randy going full-time on salary and medical beginning in April, 4% raises for all staff. Karla has given an increase to our paid singers too. We are really blessed. Finance recommended that Vestry approve the budget. Jeanna moved to approve; Al seconded; approved by voice vote.

NSP Construction Easement — Mike signed a contract for a temporary construction easement for Northern States Power (Excel), gas line along Hamline, they need a staging area, meaning our parking lot. Sometime starting April 1 until Nov. 1, 2022. The contract outlines the part of the parking lot they will be using. They will pay us \$2,000 per month to use the parking lot for at least three months during that time. During the State Fair, if they are using the lot; they will pay us for any parking spots we lose. They will repair and restore the lot to the original condition. At Finance meeting, Karen suggested that video and photos be taken beforehand so that we have a record with which to compare after they say they are done and all has been accomplished.

Proposal to eliminate the Rector's Discretionary Fund checking account: two discretionary funds, one is a checking account and one is another account. Move the money from checking to the

other fund; many needy people don't have a bank account to deposit a check. Instead, purchase \$50 cards for gas stations or groceries or Eliminating the separate checking account, Kathy Ackerman found out from bank: Easiest way to close it is to have Ruth write a check to our Discretionary Fund that empties the account and then we ought to have an official statement that we wish to have the account closed. Getting rid of line 104 under the Dedicated Funds. Pat moved; Erin seconded; approved by voice vote.

N95 masks — Tom Linder brought up that masks we have been using are not recommended, so Finance approved buying two packages of N95 masks for the choir and altar party.

New Business

- 7:35** Mike: Annual meeting: brief overview
To Vestry, one service at 9:30; Annual meeting begins at 11:00; please come. Annual meeting packets will be available. Activities for the kids during the meeting? No discussion of that prior to this meeting; please contact Marion. Eric Hedican's daughter is getting married the Saturday evening before the Annual meeting — out of town, so an "excused absence." Can be voted onto Vestry, even in absentia, according to Fr. Randy.
- 7:38** Ross Update on change with Refugee family sponsorship: We are not getting an Afghan family right away; might not get an Afghan family until a second batch comes through. Could we receive a family who is not from Afghanistan? Will be a family with refugee status, in any case. Marion has started a list of gently used items to be collected; items can be put where the youth used to meet.
- 7:44** Randy Rector Report, Bishop's letter to clergy — COVID rates are highest that they have ever been; it's concerning. Bishop Loya sent a pastoral letter, which Fr. Randy will share. "You are getting this right God brought Israel out of bondage and will bring this world out of this"
- 7:50** Vestry Liaison Reports — Erin, children's ministry: Marion surveyed families about what they wanted to do with the omicron; families will skip Sunday School for now, option for Zoom but not a lot of interest. Fr. Randy and Marion will continue family services outside on the first Sunday of the month at 4 p.m. Otherwise, Sunday School is temporarily on hold
- Chris — B&G: Dec. 26, Jeff noted that blower went out in the Parish Hall furnace; Mark was able to re-build with "spare parts"; separate from leaking pipe.
- 8:05** Mike Thank-you to departing members!!! Mike: Erin, Josh, Al — three years is a significant commitment; thank you, all. Please turn your notebooks in to Ruth, for updating and "re-cycling" to new Vestry members.

Chris New members: Eric Hedican (8 a.m. typically, Fr. Randy married them last summer; PhyEd instructor NDSU; comes from St. John's), Madisen Crow (our kids grew up together; graduate of Luther, PoliSci major, played tennis there), Cheryl Bailey (mom is Cynthia Verhey; OBGYN oncology surgeon; budding author; married to Dan Humes; two boys)

Vestry Retreat in February: Feb. 19, 8:45, start at 9 a.m. go till 11 a.m.; Sam Rahberg, Kylie Todd-Roska, will be retreat leaders, from Woods and Waters Retreats; a repeat from last year. Also, at 11-12 or so, a brief business meeting, annual Parish report needs to be approved, will be sent via email.

- 8:00** All Shout-outs to Mark Brilowski and Jeff Jensen for working on the furnace(s); Altar Guild and their helpers for the Christmas decorating.
- 8:04** All Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Vestry comments
- 8:30** Josh Compline
- 8:35** Adjournment ; **AI moved; Erin seconded. Approved by voice vote.**

Next meeting of Vestry: RETREAT and short business meeting after, expected to be in-person, at the Church in Parish Hall, Saturday, Feb 19, 2022

Vestry Liaison Assignments

Pat	Finance
Jeanna	Recruitment, some communications
Ross	Communications
Josh	Music
Erin	Children's ministries
Al	Community Dinner/Keystone, and Archives
Leslie	Garden
Alexander	Green Team
Ann	Kitchen team, Funerals/Caterer
Allison	Web site, Communications (chair of team)