

Church of the Nativity
Minutes of the Vestry
January 18, 2022

Attending: Stephanie Allen, Stephanie Sumner, Beth Crow, Josh Booth, Anne Krouse, John Oldham, Bill Sena, Kim Stoke, Julian McKimmon, Allison Martin, George Douglas, Cuyler O'Connor, Perry Suk, Mike Rhaney, and Gail Christensen

The meeting was convened at 7:04 pm via Zoom.

The meeting began with discussion of John 2:23-3:15.

Welcome new members

Stephanie welcomed three new members to serve three-year terms: Allison Martin, Julian McKimmon, and George Douglas. (Perry Suk is still considering whether she will join the Vestry.)

Approval of December 2021 Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the December Vestry meeting were submitted for approval. Bill moved to accept the minutes as written; Allison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Update from Cuyler O'Connor

Parishioner Cuyler O'Connor has been discerning his call to the permanent Diaconate by serving as a deacon intern at St. Michael's Raleigh for three months, which has ended. He shared that Bishop Anne has moved him into the postulant stage. He will now take a few months of classes offered by the Diocese and then will be assigned to another parish later in the Spring for another internship.

Finance and Budget Discussion - Mike Rhaney and John Oldham

Nativity finished the year with good income and no budget adjustments needed. Although we did not "sail" through the last two years of the Covid pandemic, we did remarkably well. More than \$417,000 has been pledged so far for 2022 (up from \$389,000 in pledges in 2021) but there are many needs that must be addressed.

We ended 2021 with a deficit of about \$7,000, which was covered by the PPP loan of \$47,200 provided by the US government. The loan was forgiven because we met the guidelines and now the Vestry must decide what to do with the remainder of the loan.

The draft budget includes a decrease from the historic highs in regular givers and rental income, and more than \$20,000 have been asked in spending than we expect income. So the Vestry must decide where to cut to balance the budget and how to disperse the PPP loan remainder. Should it be in staff bonuses, Outreach and B&G requests, increasing the reserve funds, or ? The Vestry went into executive session to discuss and advise the Finance Team on what they feel the priorities should be. A final budget will be presented to the Vestry in February for their approval.

Executive Session

The Vestry went into executive session to discuss using part of the 2021 budget surplus (which includes the PPP loan converting to income) for staff bonuses. John Oldham proposed that the Vestry allocate \$7000 of the 2021 surplus to staff bonuses, to be allocated \$3000 to the Rector and \$4000 to a pool for the Rector to allocate to other staff members. The vote was unanimous.

Rector's Report

Stephanie gleefully reported that the three Christmas Eve services were attended by more than 400 persons, an indication of how much everyone was longing for connection and worship after a tough two years. She thanked the Vestry for investing in the tent and chairs for the two outdoor services. We have gone back to restrictions through the end of January, including that all must be masked, no food or drink may be served, etc.

The search for a permanent replacement for our longtime organist, Jason Pace, who moved to Germany in early January, is underway. Eddie Abernathy will be a temporary organist and choir master until after Easter.

The Parochial Report required by the Diocese will be ready for Vestry approval by the February meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Christensen
Clerk of the Vestry

The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for February 15 at 7 pm.