

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Barrington, Illinois

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of Monday, February 21, 2022

7:00 p.m. – Virtual Meeting

Present (Via Zoom): The Rev. Jesse Perkins (Rector), John Garcia (Senior Warden-2023), Lindsay Taylor (Junior Warden-2023), David Rauschenberg (2023), Gwen Weibel (2023), Carol Berman (2024), Melissa Buckley (2024), Marisa Boynton (2025), Brant Deichmann (2025), John Totten (2025), Craig Anderson (Clerk)

Absent: Kathi Frelk (2023), Ric Lindeen (2023), Greg Mears (2024), Doug Torbeck (2024), John Davis (Treasurer)

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

There being a quorum present, Fr. Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Fr. Perkins then offered the opening prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

David Rauschenberg moved, and Carol Berman seconded, that the agenda be approved as presented. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

David Rauschenberg moved, and Marisa Boynton seconded, that the minutes of the January 10, 2022, meeting of the Vestry, Memorandum of Approval of Use of 2021 Budget Surplus Funds, and Memorandum of Approval of 2022 Budget as Amended, be approved as presented. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

Carol Berman moved, and David Rauschenberg seconded, that the minutes of the Annual Meeting, January 30, 2022, be approved as presented. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

4. Financial Report

No report due to limited year-to-date experience for 2022.

5. New Business

Budget Stretch Ideas

Fr. Perkins noted that as of the end of 2021, there is a budget surplus of ~\$260,000 and a reserve of ~\$500,000 for St. Michael's. The surplus is related to forgiveness of the Paycheck Protection Program loans. To help address parish needs, Fr. Perkins suggested that thought and consideration be given to allocating some of the surplus to add a half-time youth minister to assist with the youth program and a quarter-time priest to allow for additional focus on pastoral care.

Comments and observations during discussion by the Vestry included that the suggestions offered are reasonable to consider, they are in keeping with the purpose of the church, and COVID-19 has impacted pastoral care. Also, sustainability of the additions to staff needs to be addressed.

Further discussion is anticipated at the March meeting of the Vestry.

6. Old Business

COVID Guidelines Discussion

Fr. Perkins reported that each parish in the Diocese may make its own rules with respect to use of face masks beginning in March. He asked for thoughts from the Vestry as to how St. Michael's should proceed.

During discussion, suggestions offered included requiring or encouraging that masks be worn by children in Sunday school; having masks be optional upstairs but required downstairs; and returning to masks being optional for adults beginning in March. It was noted that attending worship services virtually remains an option for any person who might not be comfortable without masks being required. Fr. Perkins suggested possibly returning to the worship service format that was in place late last year, prior to the pandemic resurgence.

Based on the discussion, going forward in March, masks will be optional for worship, but encouraged for parishioners who are not vaccinated or high risk. Live streaming of worship services will continue. Masks will continue to be required for children and teachers in Sunday school downstairs, but optional after joining worship service in the nave. Also, coffee hour can be resumed

He will provide an update to the parish regarding changes to be implemented but asked the Vestry to provide him with any other comments or ideas following tonight's meeting.

Mini-Sabbatical Implementation

Fr. Perkins noted the link provided to read the related letter from Bishop Chilton and advised that St. Michael's staff will be following up with a mini sabbatical during spring break week. Worship services remain a priority and will remain in place.

Rectory Kitchen and Bathrooms

Fr. Perkins reported that improvement of the bathrooms has been completed, including floor repairs. He noted that the kitchen is being redesigned for better use of space and that the cabinets have been ordered. The kitchen work is anticipated to be undertaken in May or June.

7. Committee Reports

Building and Grounds

Fr. Perkins provided an overview of the purpose and tasks of this committee. Brant Deichmann volunteered to lead this committee.

Stewardship Team

Fr. Perkins and Lindsay Taylor commented on the stewardship initiative, noting that the current program has been working well and serves as a nice guideline, but also allows for creativity going forward and offers an opportunity to build excitement and pride in St. Michael's. Marisa Boynton volunteered to lead this team.

Parish Vision

Fr. Perkins commented on the need to again have a fellowship team at St. Michael's for response to parishioner needs which might arise due to health or other stressful/difficult situations. The scope and focus, including that which St. Michael's can offer, need to be developed. John Garcia volunteered to assist with this endeavor.

8. Rector's Report

Fr. Perkins noted that there is a link to watch the annual report which he presented at the Annual Meeting. Also, Fr. Perkins noted that Fr. Jim Swarthout might join the St. Michael's ministry team as priest associate, an interim organist is on board, pastoral care restart efforts are underway, his participation in the Diocesan Fresh Start program, premarital counseling for persons getting married at St. Michael's, upcoming participation in the Barrington leaders' cohort class, Gwynne Johnston's work on the idea to establish a permanent fund for St. Michael's, and preparations for Lent.

9. Senior Warden's Report

John Garcia thanked Fr. Perkins for chairing the first meeting of the new Vestry and for easing the transition.

John reported on his discussion with Ann Kimes regarding ideas for rejuvenated use of St. Michael's library. This item will be a topic for future discussion by the Vestry.

10. Closing Prayer

The closing prayer was offered by Fr. Perkins.

11. Motion to Adjourn

Melissa Buckley moved, and Carol Berman seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. There being no objection, the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Craig G. Anderson

Craig G. Anderson, Clerk