

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Barrington, Illinois

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of Monday, November 20, 2023

7:00 p.m. – Virtual (Via Zoom)

Present: The Rev. Jesse Perkins (Rector), Lindsay Taylor (Senior Warden-2024), Bill Ferry (Junior Warden-2024), Carol Berman (2024), Melissa Buckley (2024), Doug Torbeck (2024), Marisa Boynton (2025), Brant Deichmann (2025), Ellen Lindeen (2025), Sam Adams-Lanham (2026), Wes Kimes (2026), Lynn Mayberry (2026), John Davis (Treasurer), Craig Anderson (Clerk)

Absent: Greg Mears (2024)

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

There being a quorum present, Lindsay Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Fr. Perkins offered the opening prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

Sam Adams-Lanham moved, and Lynn Mayberry seconded, that the agenda be approved as presented. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

Vestry Meeting – October 16, 2023 (Via Zoom))

Carol Berman moved, and Marisa Boynton seconded, that the minutes of the October 16, 2023, meeting of the Vestry be approved as presented. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

4. Financial Report – October 2023

John Davis reviewed the October 2023 Financial Statements. While pledge receipts were less than anticipated, non-pledge revenue was more than budgeted.

Lynn Mayberry moved, and Ellen Lindeen seconded, that the October 2023 Financial Statements be approved. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

5. New Business

Outreach Grant Proposal – Fall 2023

Melissa Buckley reviewed the Outreach grant recommendations for Fall 2023, included in the meeting packet for this evening's meeting.

Carol Berman moved, and Sam Adams-Lanham seconded, that the Fall 2023 Outreach grant distributions be approved as recommended. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

Housing Resolution

Fr. Perkins provided a verbal summary of the housing allowance resolution included in the meeting packet.

Wes Kimes moved, and Ellen Lindeen seconded, that the Housing Allowance Resolution for The Reverend Jesse S. Perkins, as included in the information packet for the November 20, 2023, meeting of the Vestry, be approved. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

Sabbatical Expenses

John Davis reviewed funding for sabbatical expenses for Fr. Perkins.

Following discussion, Melissa Buckley moved, and Sam Adams-Lanham seconded, that \$5,000 be moved from “sabbatical other” to “sabbatical expenses” to cover anticipated costs in 2024. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

Lindsay Taylor and Fr. Perkins commented on plans for Fr. Perkins to pursue a doctorate over the course of the next four years. A scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 per year for each of the next four years is proposed to help cover part of the costs associated with this endeavor. In conjunction with sabbatical costs, funding is available for this scholarship.

Sam Adams-Lanham moved, and Marisa Boynton seconded, that scholarship funding in the amount of \$1,000 per year for each of the next four years be allocated in “sabbatical other” to help cover costs associated with Fr. Perkins’ pursuit of a doctorate. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

Fr. Jim Swarthout

Fr. Perkins reviewed information included in the meeting packet pertaining to his request to have Fr. Swarthout join St. Michael’s staff as Assistant Rector on a part-time basis. Funding is available in excess cash reserve to cover associated costs.

Following discussion, Lynn Mayberry moved, and Marisa Boynton seconded, that \$95,000 from excess cash reserve be moved to the curate/assisting rector designated fund to allow employment of Fr. Jim Swarthout as Assistant Rector at St. Michael’s for five years without additional budget impact. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

Fr. Perkins offered a verbal summary of the housing allowance resolution for Fr. Swarthout included in the meeting packet, which provides that the total compensation paid to Fr. Swarthout shall be designated to be a housing allowance.

Carol Berman moved, and Lynn Mayberry seconded, that the Housing Allowance Resolution for The Reverend Jim Swarthout, included in the information packet for the November 20, 2023, meeting of the Vestry, and as corrected at said meeting, be approved. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

6. Old Business

None

7. Committee Reports (As Requested)

Building and Grounds Committee

Brant Deichmann reported that the recently installed Community Room HVAC unit motor failed but is covered under warranty and will be replaced.

It was noted that it is sometimes hard for people toward the back of church to hear during services. Options to address this situation are being explored.

Little Angels Preschool

Lynn Mayberry advised that it has been a busy month for the Preschool. Three candidates for the position of Director will be interviewed and recommendations then provided to Fr. Perkins.

2023 Stewardship

Marisa Boynton reported that Stewardship Sunday on November 12, 2023, was successful, with a good turnout for the luncheon. An update regarding pledges for 2024 is being prepared. Marisa thanked all who assisted with the stewardship campaign.

8. Rector's Report

Fr. Perkins thanked the Vestry members for their ongoing support for him and our parish, noted that plans are in place for clergy coverage during his sabbatical next year, and thanked Lynn Mayberry and the entire Little Angels Christian Preschool Director search committee for their work. Fr. Perkins also noted that he met with the Preschool teachers regarding the Director search process; the All Souls Requiem Mass was outstanding; the upcoming Lessons and Carols service is scheduled for December 3, and will include readers from the community; St. Michael's now has more than a dozen acolytes; the youth confirmation process is underway; work to continue to make Sunday school a positive experience; and the recent Diocesan Convention.

9. Senior Warden's Report

Lindsay Taylor expressed her gratitude to the members of the Vestry for their involvement in and support for stewardship at St. Michael's, and thanked Marisa Boynton and all the Vestry for their hard work.

Lindsay noted that the Vestry slate will be discussed next month.

10. Closing Prayer

Fr. Perkins offered the closing prayer.

11. Motion to Adjourn

Wes Kimes moved, and Ellen Lindeen seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Craig G. Anderson

Craig G. Anderson, Clerk