

St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Barrington, Illinois

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

7:00 p.m. – Community Room

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), Wes Kimes (2026), Sam Adams-Lanham (2026), Lynn Mayberry (2026), John Davis (Treasurer), Craig Anderson (Clerk)

Absent: Greg Mears (2024), Brant Deichmann (2025), Ellen Lindeen (2025)

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer

There being a quorum present, Fr. Perkins called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and offered the opening prayer.

2. Approval of Agenda

With no objection the following items were added to the agenda under Approval of Minutes:

- Minutes of the Annual Meeting – February 5, 2023
- Memorandum of Approval of Amendment to Parish Bylaws – Request of February 1, 2023

3. Approval of Minutes

Vestry Meeting – January 23, 2023 (Via Zoom)

Melissa Buckley moved, and Marisa Boynton seconded, that the Minutes of the January 23, 2023, Meeting of the Vestry be approved. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting – February 5, 2023

Carol Berman moved, and Lynn Mayberry seconded, that the Minutes of the February 5, 2023, Annual Meeting be approved. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

Memorandum of Approval of Amendment to Parish Bylaws – Request of February 1, 2023

Sam Adams-Lanham moved, and Doug Torbeck seconded, that the Memorandum of Approval of Amendment to Parish Bylaws be approved. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

4. New Business

Vestry Responsibilities – Liaison to Ministries

Lindsay Taylor and Fr. Perkins reviewed and commented on Vestry liaison roles associated with ministries at St. Michael's. Following discussion of each ministry, members of the Vestry volunteered to serve in liaison capacity as noted below:

- Stewardship – Marisa Boynton
- Little Angels Christian Preschool – Lynn Mayberry

- Fellowship – Melissa Buckley and Doug Torbeck
- Visioning Team – Sam Adams-Lanham
- Worship – Wes Kimes
- Outreach – Carol Berman
- Youth – Doug Torbeck (with possible assistance of youth group members)

Brant Deichmann was absent but is requested to continue as liaison for Building and Grounds.

Lindsay Taylor requested liaisons to advise her of ministry reports and items for discussion that should be included on the Vestry meeting agenda.

2023 Vestry Meeting Schedule

Fr. Perkins reviewed the 2023 Vestry meeting schedule included in the packet of materials for this evening's meeting. He requested approval of Sunday, February 4, 2024, as the date for the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Melissa Buckley moved, and Carol Berman seconded, that the meeting date for the 2024 Annual Meeting be set for Sunday, February 4, 2024. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

5. Old Business

St. Michael's Preservation Fund

Gwynne Johnston and Anne Tolle Pepper presented an update on work underway for the long-term preservation of St. Michael's through establishment of a fund to help cover costs associated with improvement and ongoing maintenance of parish facilities. Anne noted the importance of the preservation fund for the ongoing resilience of St. Michael's. Gwynne commented on concern for preserving for many years into the future that which we value.

Gwynne provided information regarding changes to the current preservation fund proposal from earlier drafts, including ability to structure donations over an extended period and potential to obtain a tax benefit. He advised that a governing board of five persons, appointed by the Vestry, would be responsible for investments and report to the Vestry. A goal to raise ~\$3,000,000 for investment to create a revenue stream from dividends to maintain church facilities is proposed. Also, a limited liability corporation would be created to operate separately from the church.

Anne outlined a possible structure for a fund-raising effort, including an overall focus on the importance of investment in our faith home and what it might look like without that investment. Parishioners' individual life stories can serve to elevate the campaign structure.

During discussion several thoughts and comments were offered for the preservation fund donations effort:

- Creation of a gift pyramid graphic.
- Focus on opportunities and options for all to contribute.
- Bring this effort under an overall umbrella for fundraising.
- Keep this effort separate from the annual pledge campaign.
- Provide flexibility to address individual needs.

Gwynne commented on next steps toward moving forward with creation of the preservation fund. Fr. Perkins emphasized the importance of resilience for St. Michael's.

6. Committee Reports (As Requested)

Building and Grounds Committee

Lindsay Taylor reviewed the report prepared by Brant Deichmann. Information was provided regarding the recent fire alarm and safety inspection conducted related to operation of the Little Angels Christian Preschool and follow-up. The report also noted initial planning underway for the Community Room ramp project, including the bid process and project specifications.

Doug Torbeck moved, and Wes Kimes seconded, that the costs associated with repairs and improvements required by the results of the fire inspection related to operation of the Little Angels Christian Preschool be approved. Upon a voice vote: All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

Greeting of Newcomers, Visitors, and Parishioners

Carol Berman noted the benefit of and encouraged the wearing of name tags.

Fr. Perkins suggested possible reactivation of the Greeters Ministry.

7. Rector's Report

Fr. Perkins noted the welcome information included in the February 8 packet for the Vestry; commented on the 'Safe Church, Safe Communities' requirements; reported on his recent visit with Bishop Paula Clark; offered some possible options to think about with respect to distribution of the elements at the Holy Eucharist; advised that there has been strong attendance at Sunday worship services in recent weeks; reported that 18 persons attended the newcomers brunch; noted several pastoral care concerns; and provided some 75th Anniversary planning updates.

Fr. Perkins and the Vestry then met in executive session for discussion of staffing items.

8. Senior Warden's Report

Introduction

Lindsay Taylor thanked the members of the Vestry for serving. She noted some documents recently circulated to the Vestry. Also, Lindsay encouraged members to reach out to her with any questions.

Gifts Survey

Lindsay advised that thus far there have not been many responses to the Gifts Survey. The Vestry then discussed ideas to motivate additional responses. Additional discussion will be necessary.

9. Closing Prayer

Fr. Perkins offered the closing prayer.

10. Motion to Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Craig G. Anderson

Craig G. Anderson, Clerk