

## **Christ Church Vestry Meeting Minutes**

**June 18, 2019**

### **Earle Conference Room, Parish House**

**Attending:** Harrison McLeod (Rector), Ben Horne (Senior Warden), Ashley Reynolds (Junior Warden), Anne Arrington, Jim Baumgardner, Lauren Briles, Cotton Clarke, Emily Davis, Jordan Earle, Elizabeth Fletcher (Secretary of the Vestry), Mac Gentile, Charles Jenkins (Priest Associate for Pastoral Care) Chris Klasing (Assistant Treasurer), George E. McCall, Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), Dan Seaman (Treasurer), Penn Williams, Helen Wynkoop, and Rose Cuddy (Clerk of the Vestry).

**Absent:** Norma Givens, Wade Kolb (Assistant Chancellor).

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod opened the meeting with prayer at 5:00 PM.

### **Rector's Report**

Core Value Bible Study - Community: Harrison led the Vestry in a Bible study related to the Core Value of Community, which is highlighted this month. He offered a framework based on theology and structure and scriptural basis for our values. He described his faith journey over the last ten years as Rector and how God has challenged him through personal experiences. The Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – is community. Restoring fellowship with humankind and the desire to heal relationship manifests itself in Jesus Christ. The hallmark of Christ's ministry is overcoming isolation. Christ's teaching to love God and love each other allows us to enter fully into relationship with Christ and with each other. Harrison cited John 15:11 as a description of abundant life. When in relationship, we manifest the fruits and gifts of the Spirit. Harrison said he has come to a place where he believes that all of us are created in God's image and that we should not allow human imposed descriptions to get in the way. He also said that the beauty of the Episcopal tradition is that you can not agree with him and yet we can still worship together. There are many rooms in God's kingdom but we are all in the same house. He has a number of scriptural references he can provide if you wish to have them.

### **Introduction of Charles Jenkins, Priest Associate for Pastoral Care**

Charles introduced himself and summarized his personal background and spiritual journey for the Vestry. He described his call to ministry, hospice work and church administration. He graduated from Sewanee in May, and was ordained a Deacon on Saturday. A few years ago while working for a hospice company, he was a parishioner at Christ Church. At that time, he had no idea that he would be led to return to Christ Church in ministry today. Emily asked when Charles would be ordained a priest. He will serve six months as a Deacon before being ordained a priest. Ben asked about the six month period between ordinations. Charles elaborated that this is best described as a time of preparation and learning to serve. Harrison said that he hopes that the ordination would be held as soon as possible on or after December 15.

### **Rector's Report, Continued**

Reframing the Budget: Harrison said that this year's budget process will, as usual, include a Budget Committee and Ministry Area presentations, but, instead of new parishioners, the committee will include three Vestry members and three staff members as we reframe our budget to describe our Mission, Visions and Values. This committee composition will help us to increase Vestry participation at the ground level and give those serving on the committee a better feel of how this process works. The

ELT leaders will continue to develop their departmental budgets. The Vestry will name priorities, which we will communicate to our Budget Committee. Jim asked to include more time to consider the budget after the drafts are made. Cotton said that all the Vestry members are always invited to attend any of the Budget Committee meetings, which is where information is presented and discussions take place. George E. McCall has agreed to serve as Chair of the Budget Committee. Questions were asked about funding for the Bicentennial celebrations and emphases. Harrison said that we've hired a consultant to help us manage the multiple initiatives taking place over the next 18 months. The Annual Giving Campaign and donations for the Bicentennial emphases will likely take place simultaneously. Helen said that she thought there is value in asking the parish for donations to cover Bicentennial expenses to help educate them that there is a cost. Harrison said that the survey coming out next week is a good chance to ask advice from the parish.

Staffing: Hedrick Lewis is returning to a job in the classroom and will leave her position as Children's Ministry Director soon. Kellie Wilson has been named the Senior Associate and will have specific new responsibilities as well as authority: oversight of professional development, leading the Executive Leadership Team, integration of program life and advance planning, working with administrative staff to equitably align responsibilities, and, in the absence of the Rector, Kellie will be in charge and serve as the go-to person. Kyley Miller has resigned as Human Resource Director due to health issues. Kevin Mertens has resigned from Vestry to take on the position as Faith in Action Director. Harrison is in discussion with a retired priest to take on some additional liturgical duties on a part-time basis. Lauren asked if we are posting certain job descriptions. Harrison said since Kellie is taking on the professional development aspects of Kyley's job and the agency Find Great People may be retained for recruiting, we will not fill the HR Director position as a separate job at this time.

#### Questions & Comments

Mac asked if next week's survey is related to an upcoming capital campaign. Harrison said that is one part of the survey, which will help us understand the will and desires of the parish. The information gained will also be helpful with the Budget Committee process and in other ways.

#### **Senior Warden**

No report.

#### **Junior Warden**

No report.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Through May, we are \$217,000 ahead of budget. This is due to receipt of additional pledges in May (but is likely to even out through the rest of the year), timing on the Endowment draws earlier than were originally planned for, plus we underspent \$54,000 on staffing budgets (which will also resolve through the end of the year). HIStory Lives received \$6,000 on the month and expenses were \$1,000. We're waiting on an invoice from Femenella which should be the last real expense. An additional \$70,000 was paid on the loan from cash on hand. The Jasmine Road house has been fully paid by the Jasmine Road organization three years in advance. Cecil and the lawyer for Jasmine Road are working on finalizing the paperwork to get the deed transferred. Cotton asked about people who haven't fulfilled any of their

pledges. Chris said there were 20 to 30 who have not and 20 to 30 who are behind. Communication has been sent to them. This comprises less than 20 percent of the total pledged. We have a construction loan and the consolidated loan, which are both at 3.5%. We are currently taking consultant expenses out of operations and will delay borrowing unless we need to do so.

### **Approval of May Meeting Minutes**

The May 21, 2019, Vestry meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting by email and were presented at the meeting. Harrison asked for a Vestry member to make a motion to accept the minutes. Anne Arrington made a motion to accept the May 21, 2019, meeting minutes. Cotton Clarke seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All Vestry members present voted in favor, none were opposed. The motion carried.

### **New Business**

#### Filling Kevin Mertens' Unexpired Term

Harrison said that the Vestry's pattern has been to elect the person receiving the next highest number of votes in Vestry elections since this reflects the will of the parish. Elizabeth Fletcher, who is in this position, was elected to serve as Secretary of the Vestry in case of a situation such as this, when a Vestry member resigns before a term is up. By serving as Secretary, the runner up will be acquainted with current Vestry issues and discussion as that person takes office. If Elizabeth is elected, she can also continue to serve as Secretary of the Vestry concurrently and since the term expires in December 2019, she may also be nominated to run for Vestry during this fall's elections for a three year term that would begin when this term is up.

George E. McCall moved that Elizabeth Fletcher be elected to fill Kevin Mertens unexpired term through the end of the term, December 31, 2019. Cotton Clarke seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the Vestry voted unanimously to elect Elizabeth Fletcher to the Vestry.

#### **Matthew 25 Diocesan Grant**

Anne Arrington moved to request Vestry approval for a grant application to the Diocese of Upper South Carolina's Matthew 25 Fund to partially fund a teaching and renewal event, called Weekend of Hope, in Greenville in October for women who are participants in Jasmine Road ministry. The Vestry received an electronic copy of the grant proposal prior to the meeting for the review. The proposal is for a weekend similar to Cursillo and based on a renewal weekend led by Bill Matthews of His Hands Ministry for homeless men in Columbia. Cotton Clarke seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the grant application. The motion carried.

#### **Ministry Area Reports**

Ministry Area Reports from department heads were distributed prior to the meeting via email. Additional updates are noted below.

Resource Development: Cotton said that staff members and the parish have three weeks to complete the survey that comes out Monday, so please give it your attention as soon as possible. The Vestry will have lots of opportunities to support Resource Development initiatives in the coming months.

Faith Development – Children & Youth: Lauren said she was sorry to see Hedrick Lewis leave but is excited about the opportunities coming up in Faith Development.

Parish Life: Emily said that everyone on the Parish Life team is working hard on the Patriotic Picnic. Volunteers are needed, so look at the postcard that went out and check our website. The encouraged the Vestry members to sign up to attend and to help!

Faith Development Adults: Jim noted that the church bells are too loud after church. Harrison said that this is being addressed. Jim asked about the Bicentennial Celebrations. He inquired if *celebration* is the right word since it sounds too much like a party rather than the multiple emphases being planned that will impact the ongoing life of the church. Harrison said this was a good point.

### **Adjournment**

Harrison closed the meeting in prayer. The meeting was adjourned 6:50 PM.