

Christ Church Vestry Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 5:00 PM
Earle Conference Room, Parish House

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Ben Horne (Senior Warden), Ashley Reynolds (Junior Warden), Jim Baumgardner, Lauren Briles, Cotton Clarke, Emily Davis, Jordan Earle, Elizabeth Fletcher (Secretary of the Vestry), Mac Gentile, Norma Givens, Chris Klasing (Assistant Treasurer), George E. McCall, Dan Seaman (Treasurer), Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), Penn Williams, Helen Wynkoop, and Sherri Allred (Clerk of the Vestry).

Absent: Anne Arrington, Wade Kolb (Assistant Chancellor)

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

Executive Summary of Actions:

- Laura Whitney was voted Secretary of the Vestry
- October 2019 Meeting Minutes were approved
- A \$5,000 request from Music Department from the Joe Pearce Fund was approved
- Removing “sole member” and “treasurer” from The Canterbury Counseling bylaws was approved
- Changing audit firms to DHG was approved

Rector’s Report

Harrison said he was very pleased with the annual meeting and thanked Ashley Reynolds for coordinating the event. He announced that the newly elected Vestry members are Nelson B. Arrington, Milton Bates, Elizabeth Fletcher, and Nancy Kennedy. Bill Hardaway was elected as a delegate and Betsy Baumgardner as an alternate. Harrison asked for a nomination for Laura Whitney, fifth highest in votes, as Secretary of the Vestry. He has spoken with her and she is willing to serve. She understands the responsibilities and that the position is a non-voting position. Ashley Reynolds nominated Laura Whitney as Secretary of the Vestry. Cotton seconded. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Norma asked about the length of terms for delegates and alternates. Cecil confirmed that it was a four-year term. Sherri will ask Rose Cuddy for a list of delegates and their terms.

Harrison said that a property committee has been assembled and Jordan will talk about it later in the meeting.

Harrison announced that Brittany Hoots has resigned as Welcoming Minister. He reminded the group that there are unfilled staffing positions that are budgeted for 2020. The hope is that if we make the \$2.8 million Annual Giving goal, we will be able to hire for those positions. He said would love to combine some of those jobs, including a Young Adult Minister, and would like to have full time employees rather than a lot of part-time positions.

As far as the Bicentennial efforts, Harrison said he has raised \$78,000 for the Joyful Garden Tour, \$79,000 for the History magazine, and \$93,000 for the afterschool program. He said talks are continuing with the Faith in Action Committee about using some money we already have to help with the

afterschool program. The Bicentennial Committee has recruited a steering committee and they will continue to discern needs and have conversations. Jim Baumgardner asked where the Sterling Program fits into it? He said it's a struggle getting people there and he would hate to see that go by the wayside. Harrison replied that we are not going to do away with that program and there is more room for that and the choir school with 4000 parishioners. Lauren Briles said that it is a great struggle to get volunteers during the 4-7 pm time frame. She suggested that we reconsider those hours.

Senior Warden's Report

Ben Horne said he is interested in the Vestry's thoughts about making each Vestry member a part of a small group. He mentioned the top five priorities from our survey and offered suggestions:

1. A re-engage program—maybe this is a marriage ministry/small group. Or a small group that focuses on addictions; that deals with helping people to heal.
2. Make changes to attract family and youth; Acts 2 talks about the early church and how they were going house to house—the Lord was adding day by day to their numbers
3. Christian formation—Bible study; relationship-oriented; there is a prayer aspect where you are supporting each other
4. Form meaningful relationships—the idea of small group energy and the Vestry being invested in that. He said it would be fabulous if each of us could lead a strong group; that's a way for 12-15 people have input into what's happening in the church.
5. He said there is a need to develop small group leaders.

He asked the group for their thoughts. Jim asked what we have now. Harrison replied that people express the interest in doing small groups, but then they don't quite get plugged in in time. One thing to help with that is Coffee & Connect for the Bicentennial. He said that with that, we automatically have a way to plug them in to a group. The other is the hybrid formations where if you're on a business trip or a mom with 4 kids, you can get in online and be an active participant. He said it fills a gap for a lot of people who just can't get to the groups.

Cotton said that the Young Adult Men's Bible Study has not taken off. Lauren said the feedback she hears is that Sunday School groups must be controlled by the church. She said a lot of people her age can't do nighttime meetings, but they can do it during the Sunday School hour. Ben said it shouldn't be that controlled. Harrison agreed. Lauren said the feedback is that we just want to have coffee and conversation. Emily said that it would be nice to have some guidance. If there is a list of suggested books; that would be more positive. Harrison asked what direction is helpful and what is not helpful. Cotton said that there was a very vibrant 20/20 group when they came into the church, but it has fallen by the wayside. Re-introducing something like the 20/20 is a good idea. Harrison said that it's the staff's job to be helpful. Emily said that Forks & Fellowship was a good idea; it was pretty successful but it's an easier commitment than a small group. Harrison said small groups are designed to last about a year. He asked if there is willingness on the part of this group to take a leadership role? Ben reminded the group that sometimes leadership just means you're a host. He also reminded them that God will multiply your time if you spend it in His service.

Junior Warden's Report

Ashley Reynolds thanked everyone who helped with the annual meeting. She said that some of the Project Host servers were students from the CC Cooking school and one Jasmine Road participant is currently a student learning at Project Host. Feedback was offered as follows:

- Jim said the meeting was awkward, there wasn't a lot of information/data and we need to increase attendance.
- Elizabeth felt like attendance was much lower and that people don't know why they should attend. She said we need to change our communication and let people know why they should attend.
- Helen said that having a business meeting aspect is important.
- Chris said he liked the format for this year and that Harrison did a good job of fielding the questions.
- Jim said we need to make sure people walk away knowing more about the church and where we were headed.
- Elizabeth said there was usually a big focus on Annual Giving; we didn't focus on that this year. Harrison said that was intentional. But it missed the mark.
- Ben said that next year will be different because of the Bishop's visit, the Bicentennial & the Annual Meeting all together.

Treasurer's Report

Monthly Budget Report

Dan Seaman said we are only slightly in the red in October, which is unusual for this time of year, but very encouraging. The total revenue is ahead of the curve and giving is within a few thousand dollars. Expenses are significantly below target because of unfilled positions.

He said we should be better than budget by the end of the year and that we can consider putting a reserve in place to cover the \$65,000 deficit that we have for the 2020 budget. History lives- has taken \$25,000 in but there is still \$1.1 million outstanding. He said we will discuss debt reduction and put together a plan at the retreat in January. After the retreat, we will take the plan to the Finance Committee and we hope there will be recommendations to the Vestry in the February meeting.

Chris said there was one endowment request from the Music Department for \$5,000 from the Joe Pearce fund. The Music Department expenditures have been over-budget for the year. Harrison said that the Pearce Fund is specifically for unbudgeted expenses. Year to date we are \$41,000 spent against a budget of \$34,000. He said this is an anticipated expense. If we don't make the request, we will be in the red and not have the money for the items. Chris made the motion to accept the request. Cotton seconded the motion. None were opposed. The motion passed.

Approval of October Meeting Minutes

The October 15, 2019, Vestry meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting by email and were presented at the meeting by Elizabeth Fletcher, Secretary of the Vestry. She asked for a Vestry member to make a motion to accept the minutes. Jim said that Sherri needs to use people's names when reporting discussion. He said the minutes need to reflect who said what. Norma said that there is a lot more detail than we need. She said minutes should include actions that we take rather than the

discussions. What we do is what should be included. Jim said he would love the minutes to be useful for the congregation. Elizabeth suggested that there be an executive summary of actions at the beginning of the minutes and that she would be happy to review minutes before they are provided to Vestry members. Norma made a motion to accept the October meeting minutes as presented. Cotton seconded the motion. All Vestry members present voted in favor; none were opposed. The motion carried.

New Business

Canterbury Counseling Bylaw change;

Elizabeth reported that there was discussion about mitigating risk to Christ Church as a part of Canterbury Counseling Center. The Canterbury bylaws specify Christ Church as the sole member. This is a barrier to fundraising. She said that to reduce some of that risk and give Canterbury some independence, we are proposing removing Christ Church as the sole member and remove the requirement for the CCC treasurer to make an annual report to the Vestry. These are two changes to move toward more changes in the future. Elizabeth moved that the bylaws be revised to remove “sole member” and “treasurer” along with other insignificant revisions. Cotton seconded. All voted in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Audit Selection

George said it is a normal process to change audit firms occasionally. Chris, Dan, Matt, George, Suzanne and Kim received and reviewed bids. They unanimously recommended that DHG be selected as the current auditor as of the 2020 fiscal year. DHG had the lowest bid and the advantage for on-going support. As former employees, Suzanne and Kim recused themselves from the vote. George made the motion that DHG be selected as auditor as of the 2020 fiscal year. Cotton seconded. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Young Adult Ministry

Cotton Clark expressed his concern about the health of the parish. He said he is seeing the future of the parish leave. Jim Baumgardner asked Cotton to name two things that would make a difference. Cotton replied that what they are looking for is how do I raise my children in a Christian environment? How can we further fulfill learning more about living a Christian life? Helen gave the example of the VBS-style Sunday School. She said that if it weren't for Lauren (Briles), that wouldn't even exist.

Ministry Area Reports

Ministry Area Reports from department heads were distributed prior to the meeting via email. There were no updates or additions.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 7:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Sherri Allred, Clerk of the Vestry