

“To love others as Christ loves us”

**Christ Church Episcopal Vestry Minutes
Christ Church All Saints Center – Room 100
Tuesday, August 20, 2024**

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Bill Hardaway (Senior Warden), Wade Kolb III (Asst. Chancellor), Nelson Arrington III (Treasurer), Chris Klasing (Asst. Treasurer), Betty Parker Ellis, Norma Givens, Julie Haas, Martha Louise Lewis, Smyth McKissick IV, Mary Holt Murphy, Phil Peterson, Angelle Reichert.

Minutes Taken by: Wes Clarke

Attending by Phone: None.

Not in Attendance: Bryant Nixon (Junior Warden), Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), Betsy Baumgardner, Dexter Hagy, Kay Jenkins, Paul Landis.

Guests: The Reverend Lindy Bunch, Associate Rector for Parish Life and Adult Formation.

Welcome & Prayer:

The Reverend Dr. Harrison McLeod (Rector) opened the meeting in Prayer at 5:06pm.

Ministry Area Update:

Harrison welcomed The Reverend Lindy Bunch for a report on Parish Life and Adult Formation. Lindy began by praising her team members in Parish Life: Claudia Coleman, Carrie Moore, Anna Blencowe, and Anne Green Buckner. She is grateful that Welcoming Ministries has been added to Parish Life, and the Coffee & Connect events are going well.

Parish Life is seeking a shift from being so event-heavy toward deepening formation, an example of which is the upcoming fall showcase event featuring Becca Stevens. A by-product of that shift is the discontinuation of the mostly social Christmas Dinner and handing off the Oyster Roast to those already leading it behind the scenes. A Women’s Retreat is being planned for February 21-23, 2025, at Kanuga, with a follow-up Bible study during Lent which Lindy is co-writing with Debbie Thomas.

Lindy reported excitement for The Forum, formerly the Rector’s Forum, including upcoming speaker series on angels in the Anglican Communion, and two sessions on the history of Israel and Palestine. The Forum is a particularly appropriate option for newcomers who may not yet seek a participation-heavy Sunday program option.

Lindy also reported on the updated Confirmation process, and distributed samples of the new passport booklet for both adults and youth, which provides a more similar preparation across age groups for the same rite. The passport includes a variety of experiences for which participants will receive stickers: attending church twice and reflecting briefly on the sermon; understanding tithing as contributing time, talents, and/or treasure; and drafting a faith statement, for example. The Bishop really began Lindy’s process of reflection by clarifying that people should be formed mostly through faith and community,

and her instinct is that people enjoy knowing what the parameters are. The passport will be released by Kellie and Joleen to youth during 9th grade, and they will have multiple years to fulfill the requirements, including a retreat offered twice per year. Youth cannot be confirmed until age 16. The hope is that the new process is comprehensive yet offers flexibility.

Young adult gatherings have been going well, helping to knit that age group into the life of the parish. Basketball coaches are working on the requirement to complete Safeguarding training.

Finally, Harrison asked about Lindy's doctoral work. This past summer's three-week residency involved preparing for her thesis, writing a 30-page paper, reviewing parish historical documents, and interviewing a handful of parishioners. One realization through her cohort discussions was the uniqueness of serving in a parish that is not in decline. She is also reflecting on tensions between unity and conformity. Next summer, she will attend only a weeklong residency, present a thesis project proposal, and aim to start writing for an anticipated graduation in May of 2027.

Rector's Report – Harrison McLeod:

Harrison lauded Lindy's conscientiousness and presence and expressed his pride in the commitment and gifts of the entire Parish Life team.

Kickoff Sunday this past weekend was energetic, with promising attendance in classes that has not been seen in several years.

Last week, Donald Duncan shared with Harrison a wonderful surprise that Sarah Marczynski's grant proposal had been awarded \$25k from the Calvin Institute to support the Children's Sabbath Wednesday night program. The grant will not pay for routine program expenses, but rather to bring in consultants to offer feedback on the program, and to share and receive best practices. Sarah has also written a sizable grant to the Lilly Foundation and will hear back at the end of the year.

Harrison encouraged Vestry to say hello to Angela Shoultz, the Director of Communications. Angela started yesterday and has hit the ground running.

Harrison shared his recent conversation with Caroline Avinger, who will facilitate Thursday's Vestry and Leadership Team Retreat. His hope is that the meeting will allow all attendees to emerge with a shared embrace of a set of ministry priorities.

Senior Warden's Report – Bill Hardaway:

Bill recognized Betty Parker and Martha Louise for their recent birthdays. He also applauded the Safety Committee, started by Nelson about 2.5 years ago. The group has made great progress on items like protective film, security cameras, safety training, and two-way radios. Kevin is preparing a communication for the parish on the improvements.

Finally, Bill shared that an HR consultant, Find Great People, had conducted a comprehensive employee engagement survey a couple of years ago, and then a pulse survey last year. Another pulse survey will be conducted in October.

Junior Warden's Report – Bryant Nixon:

No report.

Treasurer's Report – Nelson Arrington and Chris Klasing:

In a nutshell, finances are going very well. July's total revenues were \$184k vs. \$160k budgeted. Year-to-date total revenues were \$1.91 million vs \$1.88 million budgeted. The only soft spot is Prior Year Pledges, which are below budget by \$11k and, at this point in the year, unlikely to catch up.

Net expenses for July were \$322k, \$24k (8.1%) over budget. YTD net expenses were \$1.95 million, \$34k (1.8%) over budget. Specifically, Buildings and Grounds is \$53k over budget. Now that a significant water leak has been identified and repaired after 18 months, utilities will finally get under control. Suzanne Mize is aggregating repair expenses to be presented to the Endowment Committee to seek some reimbursement from the endowment.

Net Income (without auxiliary income/loss) year-to-date was a deficit of \$33k vs a budgeted deficit of \$38k, a difference of \$4.8k better than expected. Due to our cash position, we did not need to access deficit reserve funds, and it is unlikely that we will need to do so during the remainder of the fiscal year.

CCEP revenues for the second quarter were \$1.24 million, \$76k ahead of budget, resulting in a net income of \$84k, which is \$128k better than budget. This does not yet include a significant grant reported in last month's minutes, and so the expected end of year position should be even better. The grant has allowed CCEP to remain financially nimble and offer modest out-of-cycle raises to keep teacher compensation competitive. In response to a question about what happens if the preschool ends with a surplus, it was stated that any such surplus goes to a reserve for the preschool.

Chris will lead a meeting tomorrow morning to kick off the next budget cycle.

Finally, Chris read the following statement:

The authorized signors on the below TD Bank accounts as stated in the Corporate Resolution dated February 21, 2023, are the Church's Co-Treasurers, J. Christoph Klasing and Nelson Arrington III.

CCEP Operating Account xxxxxx0907

Christ Church MM Account xxxxxx7148

Christ Church Operating Account xxxxxx4966

Approval of Minutes from July 16, 2024:

Smyth moved to approve the June minutes, and Norma seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

New Business:

None.

Committee/Team Reports:

Phil stated that the All-Saints Center security cameras are scheduled to be installed September 2. He does not yet have a date for protective film installation.

Other Business:

None.

The closing Devotion was offered by Norma and included several quotes from Howard Thurman, former Dean of Theology at Howard University. The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 pm.

