

“To love others as Christ loves us”

**Christ Church Episcopal Vestry Minutes
Graham Library
Tuesday, June 18, 2024**

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Bryant Nixon (Junior Warden), Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), Nelson Arrington III (Treasurer), Chris Klasing (Asst. Treasurer), Betty Parker Ellis, Norma Givens, Julie Haas, Kay Jenkins, Paul Landis, Martha Louise Lewis, Smyth McKissick IV, Mary Holt Murphy, Angelle Reichert.

Minutes Taken by: Wes Clarke

Attending by Phone: Bill Hardaway (Senior Warden), Phil Peterson.

Not in Attendance: Betsy Baumgardner, Dexter Hagy, Wade Kolb III (Asst. Chancellor).

Guests: None.

Welcome & Prayer

The Reverend Dr. Harrison McLeod (Rector) opened the meeting in Prayer at 5:01pm.

Ministry Area Update

The Reverend Scott Fleischer, Associate Rector for Pastoral Care, had been scheduled to offer an update on the pastoral care ministry area, but was celebrating the healing Eucharist in Markley Chapel, and was unable to arrive before the meeting adjourned.

Rector’s Report – Harrison McLeod

Over 150 kids are registered for VBS, there are lots of volunteers involved, and the high school EYC students are helping with outreach projects.

Senior Warden’s Report – Bill Hardaway

No report.

Junior Warden’s Report – Bryant Nixon

Bryant is excited for his daughter to be married at the church on Saturday, requesting prayers for the occasion.

Treasurer’s Report – Nelson Arrington and Chris Klasing

Nelson shared that in short, the budget year has started and continued well, with revenues ahead of schedule in most categories. Expenses are only 3.5% over budgeted year-to-date, offset by strong pledges. Thus, net income (without auxiliary income/loss) year-to-date is ~\$215k, versus ~\$167k budgeted, a difference of ~\$48k better than expected.

Approval of Minutes from May 21, 2024:

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

New Business

None.

Committee/Team Reports:

Angelle offered a report from the GOAL celebration meeting the night prior, with 14 representatives from Christ Church in attendance. Perry Gilreath, Cindy Poe, and Tom Johnson were presented with awards. Milestones being celebrated included a commitment to fully fund the 988 mental health crisis line, and a first-time commitment from Greenville County to fund affordable housing. A total of \$3800 was pledged from Christ Church parishioners.

Next, Smyth shared a brief update from the strategic planning steering committee. Over the past month, committee members have been working through the first three steps of a seven step process, comprising Defining the Problem, Structuring the Problem, and Prioritizing Issues, for each of the four pillar initiatives. (Again, those initiatives are: 1. Resource development and utilization, 2. Master plan of fixed assets, 3. Engagement, and 4. Governance and leadership.) Toward the end of the summer, the committee will begin to recruit team members for each pillar subcommittee.

Betty Parker then spoke on behalf of Welcoming ministries. She distributed a list of Welcoming events, including the Newcomer Summer Social on July 21; monthly Coffee & Connect Sundays through the end of year; and Discovery Sunday, which has been scheduled for November 10, inviting Vestry members to sign up to attend one of these events. Some discussion ensued about the tradeoffs between the single-day Discovery Sunday (greater attendance) and the condensed time frame for learning about the church and Episcopalianism. Onboarding, whether new members, adults, youth, or employees, presents a balancing act between the accessibility of a modest time commitment and helping people to deeply understand what they are joining.

Harrison remarked as to the importance of further building a culture of lay ministry. Finally, both Norma and Harrison shared commendations on the scope and thoughtfulness of the efforts of the pastoral care team, through all of life's seasons from conception to death.

Finally, Martha Louise offered a brief report on CCES: re-enrollment numbers are very strong, and the attitude on campus seems healthy and positive.

Other Business

None.

As a closing Devotion, Martha Louise offered original thoughts in the spirit of Father's Day, including reading from three different Psalms: 103, 121, and 138. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.