

Vestry Meeting – July 18, 2017

The meeting was convened at 5:00 PM in Earle Conference Room, Parish House, Christ Church.

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Bern Mebane (Senior Warden), Dena Benedict (Junior Warden), Jim Baumgardner, Lauren Briles, Cotton Clarke, Rose Cuddy (Recorder), McNeil Epps, Bill Kehl (Chancellor), Chris Klasing (Asst. Treasurer) Kevin Mertens, Bryant Nixon, Ben Norwood, Louise Oxner, Chuck Reichert, Dan Seaman (Treasurer), Lizzy Sterling, Betty Teague, Brent Williams.

Guests: Lei Offerle, Jim Cothran, Josh Hakala, Noah Tassie.

Absent: None.

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod opened the meeting with prayer.

Ministry Area Visit: Facilities

Jim Cothran, Josh Hakala and Noah Tassie introduced themselves to the Vestry and described their roles at Christ Church. Lei Offerle, who is supervising the facilities team in the absence of a Business Administrator, also attended the meeting.

Josh said he began working at Christ Church in 2008 after a career as a tennis pro. His grandmother is Charleen Hakala, who also works at Christ Church. Josh's focus as grounds manager has been to beautify the grounds of Christ Church.

Noah began attending Christ Church at age 16, when his father, Joel, came here as Youth Minister. He and his family operate a farm full-time and Noah works part-time for Christ Church.

Jim, who has worked at Christ Church since 2008, is the Facilities Director and is currently the only full-time Facilities employee. His connection to Christ Church began with his sister, Karen France. He came to this position after a career in construction. He has five children and lives in Easley with his wife, Terri. He noted that his budget is now smaller than when he began work here nine years ago. He communicated the pride that he and his staff have in making the buildings and grounds welcoming for the parish and visitors.

Chuck Reichert expressed his appreciation for Jim and his team's work, the extent of which is not always realized.

Harrison recognized Lei for her support of this team during the interim.

Bern posed the question: How many Vestry members does it take to change a light bulb? He followed up by asking how Vestry members can volunteer to help the facilities staff while they are understaffed. Contact Jim or Chuck and they will be happy to schedule you to assist.

Jim thanked Lei for her outstanding leadership role in this interim.

Lei commented that she has been flabbergasted by the quantity of the never-ending work that comes in to the Facilities Team. Even after 25 years of working at Christ Church, she finds that this has been an eye-opening experience.

Harrison said that he hopes that everyone realizes all the things that the facilities crew does for us that we may take for granted. Nothing we do here would happen without them.

Dena expressed appreciation for the team's positive attitudes while so short staffed.

New Business

Vestry Approval of Sterling Hope Center Board Candidate: Jim Baumgardner, Vestry rep for Faith in Action, brought a motion from the Faith in Action Committee to the Vestry to approve Justin Fox as nominee to the Sterling Hope Center Board. Bryant Nixon seconded the motion. All Vestry members voted in favor, none were opposed. The motion carried.

Jasmine Road Resolution: The following Vestry statement was made in support of Christ Church's Application of Encumbrance of Real Property, July 18, 2017: By resolution of the Vestry, We, the Vestry of Christ Church Episcopal, Greenville, SC, understand, agree and attest that regular and faithful payment of our Episcopal Pledge will not be jeopardized by this added financial responsibility.

Cotton Clarke made a motion to adopt the statement. Ben Norwood seconded the motion. Harrison said that this motion is in response to the Diocesan Executive Council's request for completion for an Application of Encumbrance of Property at the recommendation of their Chancellor. The Diocesan letter expressed enthusiasm for the project. In looking through the application, Harrison said that there are a couple of questions that required Vestry involvement that the wording of this statement addresses. Discussion followed.

All Vestry members voted in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Lighting Proposal: Ben Norwood presented a Lighting Proposal from the Finance Committee for updated fixtures and light bulbs to replace technologically obsolete ones in the Parish House, All Saints Center, Canterbury Counseling, Independence Bank and Boy Scout Hut. Ben noted additional environmental and economic incentives to do this project, including a rebate and obsolete fixtures. The Finance Committee proposed to pay for this with two options: One is a lease for five years at 6.5 % through Wells Fargo with \$1 buyout at the end of the lease. Second is a request for an interest free loan through the Endowment. The Finance Committee did not believe the lease option through Wells Fargo was viable.

Discussion followed.

Ben Norwood brought a motion from the Finance Committee to the Vestry to request up to \$193,000 to replace Christ Church campus lighting fixtures with the intent of requesting an interest-free loan from the Endowment Corporation.

Ben said that a backup proposal would be to request the funds from the Endowment Corporation at 3.25% interest. The third option, if refused by the Endowment Corporation, is to approach TD Bank for financing. Harrison suggested that the hue of lighting be approved by the Design Committee.

Cotton Clarke seconded the motion.

All Vestry members voted in favor, none were opposed. The motion carried.

June Minutes

The June 20, 2017, Vestry Meeting minutes and the minutes for the June 26-27, 2017, email vote held between meetings were distributed prior to the meeting by email.

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Lizzy Sterling and seconded by Brent Williams.

All Vestry members voted in favor, none were opposed. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Chris Klasing reported that we are ahead in income, but non-pledged income continues to be below projections. He said that Treasurers believe we will finish the year with a slight deficit and may need some of the deficit reserve to close the gap. HIStory Lives gifts continue on track, but as expected, we will dip into the line of credit at this point in the Restoration Project.

Rector's Report

Harrison said it was great to be back – he has never before taken four weeks off at a time. He complimented the staff on their marvelous job while he was away and encouraged the Vestry to take an opportunity to thank the staff for their excellent work. He also called the Vestry's involvement and support exceptional, especially complimenting Bern and Dena, who worked very hard while he was away.

Personnel: He said that feedback on the most recent Business Administrator candidate is due to him today. He complimented new Clergy Jay Biedenharn and Kellie Wilson on settling in well. We are looking for an addition to the facilities staff to replace Andy Pusateri, while Steve Fekete's maintenance position remains open as the cost-effectiveness of this position is evaluated.

ELT Retreat: July 31-August 1, the Executive Leadership Team will hold a planning retreat on the CCES campus. They will plan for January-August 2018 in time to coordinate programming decisions with the 2018 Budget timelines.

St. Luke's Columbarium: The Endowment Committee meets next Monday, July 24. An item on the agenda is paying for the Columbarium. The Wardens and Treasurers will meet to analyze this information. Will the Endowment or the Church own the Columbarium? The owner will need to determine the price of a niche, among other business-related decisions.

Re-Connect Sunday: Please add August 27 to your calendars. Re-Connect Sunday will be held in the Church and allow people to sign up for volunteer opportunities in our various ministry areas.

New Bible Study Opportunity: Harrison said that he is excited that being fully staffed in Faith Development allows the Clergy to participate in additional educational opportunities. Harrison and Ben Horne will lead a Wednesday Morning Bible Study at 7:00 AM Wednesday mornings. This group will meet for 45 minutes through the fall, taking December off.

Senior Warden's Report

Bern Mebane reported that a change order to add a window in the church will be covered by a donor for this stained glass window.

Bern noted the need to update our parish contacts in ACS. Recent information was that more than 900 parishioners have either no email addresses or bad ones in the system. Work with your ministry area to see what the needs are and volunteer your time.

Chris Klasing has given Bern a stack of land-use studies as we review how best to use our resources. You will hear more about strategic planning going forward.

Please work with your Ministry Areas as the 2018 budgeting process begins soon.

Junior Warden's Report

Dena Benedict said another component of the upcoming ELT Retreat is to build relationships within the team and to promote leadership. One of the things Professional Development Director Kyle Miller has asked ELT members to do in advance is to write a letter of appreciation to another ELT member randomly chosen. She said that research shows that recognition plays a large role in supporting leaders, but there is a lack of recognition expressed to them. Dena shared ways the Vestry can also support the ELT.

Departmental Reports

Pre-submitted Ministry Area reports were sent via email to the Vestry in advance and are attached to these minutes.

Pastoral Care: Kevin Mertens said that Canterbury Counseling Center reported 5,000 counseling hours in 2016, are on track for 5,500 in 2017, and are receiving 80 referrals a week.

Nominations & Elections: Lizzy Sterling reported on Nominations and Elections: On August 24, there will be a Nominations Mailing. Nominations will be accepted through September 11. As Vestry members, it is your responsibility to nominate four people for Vestry and be sure to talk to them in advance of nominating them.

Worship: Lizzy Sterling, speaking on Worship, said that Donald Duncan has raised \$11,000 for Choir Vestments and is only short \$5,000-6,000. A remarkable job!

HIStory Lives: Bryant Nixon reported on his HIStory Lives analysis of expenses and asked Harrison and Bern to confirm some details before he sends the information out, but he saw no surprises.

CCEP: Dena Benedict and Bryant Nixon reported that the Christ Church Episcopal Preschool has invited the Vestry to tour the preschool at 9:30 AM Wednesday, August 9. Please plan to attend if at all possible.

Faith in Action: Jim Baumgardner reported on the Faith In Action Retreat held last Friday and the number of volunteers that FIA programs require.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Rose Cuddy, Recorder