

Christ Church Vestry Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2019

Earle Conference Room, Parish House

Attending: The Rev. Kellie Wilson (Senior Associate Rector), Ben Horne (Senior Warden), Ashley Reynolds (Junior Warden), Anne Arrington, Jim Baumgardner, Lauren Briles, Cotton Clarke, Jordan Earle, Elizabeth Fletcher (Secretary of the Vestry), Mac Gentile, Norma Givens, Chris Klasing (Assistant Treasurer), Wade Kolb (Assistant Chancellor), Dan Seaman (Treasurer), Penn Williams, Helen Wynkoop, and Rose Cuddy (Clerk of the Vestry).

Absent: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Emily Davis, George E. McCall, Cecil Nelson (Chancellor).

Senior Warden Ben Horne opened the meeting at 5:00 PM. Ben said that Harrison McLeod and George E. McCall are away this month and that Emily's mother fell and broke her hip, so Emily is with her. He welcomed Assistant Chancellor Wade Kolb to his first Vestry Meeting.

Senior Associate Rector Kellie Wilson opened the meeting in prayer.

Rector's Report

Surveys: Senior Associate Rector Kellie Wilson attended the Vestry meeting in Harrison's stead and gave an update on the Parish and Staff Surveys. As of yesterday afternoon, 430 had participated in the parishwide survey and 32 staff members in the staff survey. The interpretations will be held Friday, August 23. Staff interpretation is 10:00 AM to Noon and the Parish interpretation is 1:00 to 5:00 PM.

Bicentennial: Kellie said that many Bicentennial committees have continued to meet over the summer. Lauren is developing a folder with information on the multiple fundraising efforts about the Bicentennial, Annual Giving, Joyful Garden Tour and a possible capital campaign. The folder will be distributed at a donor gathering September 19 and content is due to her August 16.

Clergy Schedule: Kellie said that she will be out of town Thursday-Saturday, July 18-20. Charles has the on-call phone and Jeffrey is ready to be a backup. July 26-27, Kellie will be at an interment in Savannah for a friend. Charles and Jeffrey will serve as backups.

Staffing Update: Information was shared on recent staff changes.

Senior Warden's Report

Bicentennial: Ben Horne commented on the ongoing Bicentennial planning and the number of endeavors underway.

Budgeting: Ben said that tonight's meeting will be focused on budgeting priorities as we prepare for 2020. He said that everything falls into two parts: Love God, Love Others. Ben gave a presentation with guidance about setting priorities and seeking God's will. He reminded the group of our Mission, Vision and Values. He said that Chris will show us more about our Discretionary, Non-Discretionary and Semi-Discretionary funds. Ben showed a video of Presiding Bishop Curry's invitation to be part of the Jesus Movement and pointed out that our budget should reflect these values.

Ben's Budget Priorities

- Inviting to All: Exterior signage and visibly active church.
- Community: College and Marriage Ministry under community.
- Faithful: The Vestry has expressed interest in increasing the Diocesan Pledge.
- Grateful: Bicentennial
- Compassionate: What does 10% look like – including support for Outreach ministry.

Budget Box

- He said that we should be in daily prayer about the budget.
- Change the box in relation to our Mission & Values and Prioritize
- Think outside the box.

Partnerships

Partnerships with existing ministries allow us to engage in ministry with little or no cost. He gave two examples:

- College: He said that Mere Christianity's director, Rimes McIlveen, is one partner who can help us expand our ministry at Furman University.
- Marriage Ministry: Ben and Harrison attended a marriage ministry forum about the Re/Engage program offered at Grace Church.

Junior Warden's Report

Ashley Reynolds said that she would yield her time for Chris and Dan's presentation tonight.

Treasurer's Report

Monthly Budget Report

Dan Seaman said that on the income side, we are ahead of the pledge budget. This indicates that we're on track. On the expense side, timing affects the figures. We have taken \$40,000 more from the Endowment and \$40,000 more from reserves than our budget called for by this time of year. We have not yet been invoiced for web development. Expenditures also seem to be on track.

Not much activity took place in HIStory Lives in June. The loan balance is around \$236,000. This construction loan will be paid off as money comes in and debt will be then be paid down. We have \$1.1 million in pledges not received to date with six months to go, but analysis of giving shows that pledges often come in nearer to the end of the year and that pledge funds continue to come in after the pledge period. They are discussing strategies with TD Bank to pay down the \$2M debt once the campaign is finished at year end. Cotton said that 16 pledges totaling \$85,000 have had no contributions and \$482,000 is remaining in partially paid pledges. Jim suggested keeping these numbers in mind as we plan a possible new capital campaign. Cotton said that the parish priority was the preservation of the historic church, which cost more than anticipated, but we also raised more funds than anticipated. He said we were not far off the pace and are likely to pay down at least \$600-700,000 in debt, which was the second priority to fulfill the will of the parish. Chris said that since the beginning of the campaign, we've paid down at least \$200,000 on pre-existing debt. Dan said that we pay \$6,000 per month on the

principal and the interest on the debt is paid down from rental property funds, which do not affect the general budget.

Dan said that if we move into a seasonal deficit, we will use the operating reserve funds until fourth quarter funds increase revenue, and that he will advise the Vestry when we do so. If the Treasurers believe that we cannot make the budget and need reserve funds to meet year end projections, Vestry approval would be required, including a plan to replenish the reserve.

Third Quarter Endowment Draws

The Vestry is required to approve the \$175,000 Endowment Draw prior to the Endowment meeting on Monday, July 22. Dan recalled the expenses that are paid from these draws. Details were distributed to the Vestry prior to tonight's meeting via email. One unusual item of \$17,000 is from the Parish House Fund. We must replace 17 computers that are a security risk and incapable of being updated to Windows 10.

Ashley Reynolds moved that the Vestry approve the \$175,983 in Endowment Draws for the third quarter. Cotton Clarke seconded the motion. The Vestry voted to approve. All Vestry members present voted in favor, none were opposed. The motion carried.

Approval of June Meeting Minutes

The June 18, 2019, Vestry meeting minutes were distributed prior to the meeting by email and were presented at the meeting by Ben Horne. He asked for a Vestry member to make a motion to accept the minutes.

Anne Arrington made a motion to accept the June meeting minutes as presented. Cotton Clarke seconded the motion. All Vestry members present voted in favor, none were opposed. The motion carried.

New Business

2020 Budget Discussion

Chris Klasing, Assistant Treasurer and Chair of the Budget Committee, prepared documents sent to the Vestry via email for their review prior to the meeting. He handed out a copy of the presentation with room to make notes. He also handed out a page of the Outreach expense reports that he and Anne reviewed each month.

Discussion followed and is summarized in a separate report.

Ministry Area Reports

Ministry Area Reports from department heads were distributed prior to the meeting via email. Updates and additions are noted below.

Communications: Penn asked everyone to come to the August 23 survey interpretations.

Chancellor: Wade said he was happy to attend the meeting.

Faith Development: Lauren said that Faith Development will be working hard on Children's Ministry.

Resource Development: Cotton reiterated the encouragement to attend the August 23 survey interpretations.

Faith in Action: Anne asked about Jasmine Road's budget line in the Treasurer's Report. Dan said that they had requested that we hold off on paying their support until the end of year.

Adjournment

Norma Givens made a motion to adjourn. Cotton Clarke seconded the motion. The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The meeting was then adjourned in prayer by Ben Horne at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Rose Cuddy, Clerk of the Vestry