

Christ Church Vestry Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 18, 2020, 5:00 PM

Online Zoom Meeting

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Ben Horne (Senior Warden), Ashley Reynolds (Junior Warden), Anne Arrington, Nelson Arrington, Milton Bates, Emily Davis, Jordan Earle, Elizabeth Fletcher, Mac Gentile, Norma Givens, Nancy Kennedy, Chris Klasing (Co-Treasurer), Wade Kolb (Assistant Chancellor), George E. McCall, Laura Whitney (Secretary of the Vestry), Penn Williams, Helen Wynkoop, Sherri Allred (Clerk of the Vestry).

Not in Attendance: Dan Seaman

Note: This is a regular meeting of the Vestry that took place online via Zoom because of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent orders for social distancing.

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod opened the meeting with prayer at 5:01 PM.

Executive Summary of Actions:

Rector's Report

Aware that you received an email from Lauren Briles. When anyone leaves the parish I take that as a personal defeat. I did speak with her. We exchanged texts and emails and we talked about on the phone. There were some differences in the approach to ministry that she couldn't support. Also took exception to how we handled COVID. She felt that the church should be more leading in the regathering. She and Tim came to a point where they don't feel that they can call CC home anymore. My hope as a spiritual fiduciary is that everyone will find a place that they can call home.

Anne: main concern was that she said many families felt the same way as she did. My biggest concern is that there is some kind of movement afoot with lots of families. Programs available to children and families—the Faith Development stuff. She said FiA is going great but the others aren't going as well. Hope we're not missing out with not having our finger on the pulse.

Nelson: the thing that I've expressed concern about most is lack of focus on young adults. I'm gravely concerned that we have dropped the ball. The fact that Cotton and Anne Clark left; the underwoods. We're not just losing families, we're losing leaders. As young and adults we are not being fed. There are not any ministries for us. If we don't get in front of it in a very meaningful and quick response, I think the damage to our church is going to be a lot more than we are willing to admit.

H: anytime there is a vacancy in a position for that long it leaves some holes. I am happy to hire Addie Tapp. She is sharp as can be. With that hire, we can address more effectively the younger young adults. That will take some of the pressure off of Amy and Kellie.

Emily: I'm so glad you've hired her. I'm worried still that that is not addressing the age group that is leaving.

H: Her portfolio will be 25-40. It's a very diverse group of people. She will do a great job working out to those folks. Our hope is that that will free up Amy to be more attentive to the 40-60 year olds.

Nancy: my college student knows her and is hopeful that she will work with the college students. Making it full time is completely appropriate. I'm hoping there will be a big splash about meeting her. The sooner the better to let people know she has been hired.

Penn: we definitely need to focus of the 40 somethings.

H: when we moved Amy to that position it was our intention that amy would work with 40-60 year olds. She has not had the opportunity to succeed yet. I'm hoping that reaching out to that group people will feel that the church is there for them.

Elizabeth: I wish there was a way that we can assess without looking at an Ins/Outs report. We have a real problem. There are so many gone that are not appearing on the data. I don't think it is accurate.

H: had a conversation with a 50-year-old. They were reflecting on a bible study they were doing at another church that was really feeding them. I have agreed to do this bible study for them. 5 couples meet once a week for 10 weeks. My challenge to them was to go find the other couples. All couples who are sort of leaders in the parish. I hope that they will find that a rewarding experience and will lead one of their own. I have asked Charles and Kellie to do the same thing. Charles did that last week—had about 20 people 30-somethings. Kellie is doing the same thing for women. I feel like we are taking some meaningful steps. I would love to hear what you think our steps should be and we'll do our best to implement them.

Harrison shared the Project Host banner. A wonderful thing that Project host has done. We've done over 47,K meals. We did our first 3 baptisms this past Sunday. We have 16 more before the end of the year. Families are very eager because kids are outgrowing baptismal gowns.

We've had lots of conversation about stewardship. We are implementing some new strategies. Making packet for lead donors. Will have a virtual kick-off. Our focus this year will be on participation more than anything. I don't know that we will communicate a specific number goal. Message to the parish will be that we want people to participate this year. Created a brochure that highlights the reach of our parish. We want to be able to describe what's going on in the life of the church. Describe how we have gone from January of this year to where we are now. We've had a million dollar swing. Sharing some really good news about the outreach that the parish is doing. We've had some really interesting statistics. We're trying to highlight some of the areas where we feel strong. Lauren is working very hard to help us achieve our goals. Much more social media this year than we have in the past. Welcome your suggestions.

In Septemner we will move to 9 and 11 service on Sunday morning. No eucharist until probably October. Worship committee and group is researching how we can offer the eucharist in the most meaningful way. Should be able to increase the number of attendees in October.

Referred to in our update the assembling of a study group for outreach. Met for the first time today. I was very encouraged.

Anne: good meeting; we are examining the tithe that we have said we wanted to do with outreach and what we've said we want to allocate. We'll be giving some good recommendations to the Vestry.

Working with prod unlimited and Sharp in order to continue to offer virtual services. The hardware investment up front would be \$200K and add about \$28K year expense for upkeep and updating. Then a staff person to....we have Jessica and Cara but we would need a director of digital media to direct that investment. I'm not sure we are at a place yet to make that resolution. Hope to have something very soon for you to review and act on.

Sent list of 5 priorities. Leadership team spent an hour today working on those priorities. That discussion will include the vestry. I encourage you to think about what are our top priorities and how do we fund the budget to accomplish that.

Helen: Sunday Vesper services. We had a family who was not appropriately wearing masks. I don't know how we police that, but it flies in the face of everything we are doing.

H: enforcing these, we are relying on folks willingness to cooperate. It's less difficult for the staff to say.

Nancy: same family this week. It's published and we've made no secret about it.

Helen: maybe clergy can say something when welcoming folks.

Anne: find a graphic to put at the table.

Lauren: if we are not enforcing it then we are going to have people not coming to our church service.

Nelson: I don't think we have to be that polite about it. I think it is important that they hear if they don't wear it appropriately then they will be escorted out of the service.

Milton: people aren't happy with where they are sitting. Another mention needs to be made that people have to sit in a certain place.

H: bishop has given us some criteria about letting more people in. it involves entry and exit points, legal occupancy, and air circulation.

H: bad news is that air condition rate and in ASC do not bring in new air.

Anne: Sunday School hour is at 10 am.

H: services will be between 35-45 minutes. We recognize that it presents a challenge for folks who want to attend church and then Sunday School at home. I think people will choose to attend church once or twice a month for a while. You really won't be able to do both unless you live less than 10 minutes from the church. I think based on our attendance—next question people will ask is when will we start a 5 pm service.

Warden's report:

How should we respond to the projected surplus. I heard Matthew 6:19-21. Do not store....

Jr. Warden's report: no report

Chris: treasurer's report

June Minutes:

Elizabeth: rector's report. #1 general. Dan & Chris "regarding" the sale.

Norma moved for adoption with corrections. Elizabeth seconded. None opposed.

July minutes:

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church as main beneficiary. Receiving the meals. In partnership with Project Host. We deliver them. Main beneficiary is Project Host.

Opposed: helen nelson milton elizabeth.

Motion: Jordan; nelson seconded. None opposed.

Treasurer's report:

Our income is holding up. Because our activities have been shut down expenses are running below budget. It continues to look very favorable for us.

Document forecast—we revised the format. The comments are the assumptions that went into it. The net we forecast to be \$73,829. Does not include Aero protection. We have this amount on the books for the PPP as a loan now. That will be forgiven at some time. Latest info from TD Bank is that it may be as late as the end of the year or early 2021 before that happens. Cash on hand is more because we now believe we will get all of our pledge income by the end of the year. Expenses will be down. \$488,568.

The total is the final number—not going to be bumped up with anything from CCEP. The forgiveness is accounted for in the final \$488,568.

H: it's possible that because they have had a better year than they thought they would and we will have expanded enrollment because of added K5 class. Church could ask them to repay some of those expenses that we forgave. I don't see that happening...I'd rather see the preschool build up their reserves.

Helen: total surplus at year end. Can we swap that out for using endowments?

Chris: if the vestry chose to do that we could. We would have to wait until the end of the year and see how it goes. Treasurers, Biz office, wardens and Harrison would make a recommendation on how to deal with surplus and the vestry would have to vote on that.

Helen: harrison feels that we should spend every dollar. If we have surplus and we can keep money in an endowment that would be a good idea.

Harrison: people have given us gifts to do ministry, not to bank our surplus. We don't know what our projections for next year will be. We should wait until the end of the year. If we put it in endowments, it doesn't promote ministry because the endowments are specified. It may not accomplish exactly what we want it to accomplish to put it in the endowment. If people have given us pledges for ministry then we should use those pledges for ministry. We have put money aside in the past in anticipation for upcoming expenses.

Chris: 2021 budget process. We have a couple of vacancies on the budget committee. Harrison will recommend staff. After this meeting the biz office will get started. Based on priorities, we will give those to the departments and get them started. Early November we will have a meeting. Mid November we will have another meeting and then vestry will get budget for December for approval. Email Chris with any questions.

New Business:

ON behalf of nominations committee—open until the end of the day September 7. Important for people in this group to talk to folks about their willingness to serve.

Norma made motion to adjourn. Elizabeth seconded. None opposed.

Ben closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.