

Christ Church Vestry Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 15, 2020, 5:00 PM

Online Zoom Meeting

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

Not Present: Nelson Arrington, Wade Kolb (Assistant Chancellor), Helen Wynkoop

Guests: Kellie Wilson, Addie Tapp

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.

Executive Summary of Actions:

- Vestry approved the minutes from the August Vestry meeting.
- Elections slate was presented minus one Vestry nominee. Vestry will vote electronically via email in the next few days.
- Vestry approved the Reverend Steven Roades as a Canterbury Counseling Center Board member.

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod opened the meeting with prayer at 5:03 PM.

New Staff Member:

Kellie Wilson introduced Addie Tapp, Young Adult Director, to Vestry members. Kellie shared that she first met Addie as a peer minister at Furman University where she took a lot of initiative in starting Bible studies and transporting students to church. Kellie said she has a sweet spirit, sweet soul, and a passion for people—she will be a wonderful addition to the staff for young adult members. Addie shared that she is coming from the Cathedral in Columbia where she was a youth minister. Originally from Texas, she is excited to be at Christ Church and to have COVID over one day so she can meet Vestry in person. Harrison said he was thrilled when he read Addie's resume and had heard a lot about her. He thinks God led Christ Church to the right person and led Addie to the right place. He is excited about her passion for young adults and the opportunities that will open for other ministries. Addie has kicked off Sunday School (at 1 pm so parents can come to Zoom Sunday school). The first "Third Thursday" is a happy hour on Zoom this Thursday, and she is meeting with the young adult council tomorrow night.

Rector's Report:

- Harrison reported that the Leadership Team has been working to fine tune job descriptions as Christ Church sets goals for 2021. He said a Mutual Ministry Review is also involved. This process

is an appraisal of how the ministries are doing in terms of living into the mission statement and priorities. It is a collaboration between the Ministry Areas and Vestry to determine where we want to see the parish go in the next year when we come back from COVID. Vestry members will hear from MA leaders soon—Harrison would like Vestry members to offer critique, ideas, and creativity.

- Universally among Vestry members, in-reach has risen to the top of the list of priorities for 2021. This suggests the need to refocus resources, time, and effort to nurturing parishioners and answer the following questions: How do we get people connected with the church? Where is their opportunity to plug into ministry areas? Welcoming is the second priority with a need to answer these questions: How do we greet people at the front door of the church? How do we invite those people who may have joined us online or on Zoom? Harrison said the other four priorities do not go away—we're not going to neglect them.
- Sunday School started this past Sunday, and the staff wants to make changes if necessary. Harrison said it is particularly challenging since so much of our church life is virtual. We will do hybrid offerings where we are able to. As we move into the future, we will do more in person. He said we will not stop the virtual offerings, especially for seniors who cannot get to church. We would be doing a disservice if we were to dial back on the virtual offerings. Harrison invited Vestry members to offer ideas, critiques, etc., about this past Sunday or how we can move forward.
- Harrison said we will accommodate more people in October and will be able to start offering the eucharist. The eucharist was celebrated with the staff today to test the process. He said we will not be able to offer the chalice, but we will be able to offer communion. We can't kneel at the rail, but we can stand. This will be the first eucharist since March 17. There are still a good number of people who will not feel safe coming to eucharist until perhaps we have a vaccine or have more data about COVID. Average attendance now is 60—most are 45-65 years old. Older parishioners seem reluctant and families with kids may be a little tentative. We will continue to invite and welcome more people into church as we are able. All safeguards will still be in place. We will be able to offer 150 quickly. Our 10:30 am service typically has about 300 parishioners and chapel about 150.
- In October, the 11 am service will shift to 11:15 am to allow folks time to get from Sunday School to campus for worship. Approximately 170 people have watched Rector's Forum, but the vast majority did not watch it during the Sunday School hour.
- Harrison said there will be a 5:00 pm service added once the morning numbers are higher. Regulations require that we have separate entrances and exits, know the legal occupancy, and have a certain fresh air exchange rate. The Parish house has 0% exchange rate, so we can't have worship in the Chapel. Harrison will ask Jim to find out the cost involved to fix the All Saints Center to have fresh air exchange.
- The Wardens and Harrison will have a plan ready for the Annual Meeting within the next week. It will be virtual.
- In response to the priorities for 2021, Harrison has been working with the wardens, treasurers, and business office to target staff efficiency. He hopes to hire an in-reach and welcoming person in January. The position will start at 30 hours, but he hopes it will become 40. He said there has also been a full-time Director of Digital Media budgeted, which will help with virtual offerings. Amy and Jon Malik are moving to Belize. There will be a Director of Adult Education position

available. Harrison would love to find a person who is called to work with the older adults. We also have in the budget a half-time priest position. He said it is not beyond the realm that we could combine the part-time priest with adult education and hire a full-time priest for that position. He said that if we can identify and find the right people for those three positions, we can really have a golden opportunity to take some steps that will pay some real dividends as we move into 2021.

- Harrison has set a goal of January 1 to have the new website and database ready. We do not have a full-time person to do the conversion. The business office does not want to be operating out of two sets of books after January 1, so he said we will move heaven and earth to get the conversion done by January 1.

Senior Warden:

Ben said he appreciates the information provided and is excited about the positions we are ready to fill.

Junior Warden:

Ashley has no report.

Treasurer's Report:

Chris reported that the income continues to hold up well. August was not a good month for pledge income, but the overall pledge income is on track. The year-end should have approximately \$90,000 in surplus. If the PPP is forgiven, that surplus will be closer to \$500,000. Budget work has begun. Suzanne will record the Zoom meetings so Vestry members can watch the meetings. Staff members will tell their stories at the budget committee meetings. The bookstore account and the separate checking account for the Joyful Garden Tour have been closed. Money will continue to be on their books but will be in our records. That will save work for the business office and save administrative costs for both of those accounts. Chris will send Zoom invitations to Sherri to distribute to Vestry for budget committee meetings.

Minutes:

Harrison presented the August meeting minutes for approval. Anne Arrington pointed out one typographical error. Ashley Reynolds made the motion to approve the minutes with the noted correction. Anne seconded the motion. None were opposed. The motion passed.

New Business:

1. Nominations slate.

- Elizabeth Fletcher shared summary data for nominations. She reminded the Vestry that two drivers that make this year different: this is the first year for electronic nominations, and it is wardens elections year.
- For 2020 Vestry Nominations, there were 72 total nominators, and 71 parishioners who received at least one nomination (58% fewer nominators, but 150% more unique individuals were nominated than in 2019). 39 paper nominations were mailed or dropped by the church, and 33 (46% of total) were electronic, in this first year offering electronic nominations.

- Bern Mebane made the point that it was especially important that there were electronic options given the pandemic.

Harrison presented the slate as follows:

<u>Sr. Warden:</u>	<u>Vestry:</u>	Reid Sherard
Anne Arrington	Jack Bacot	
Dena Benedict	Betsy Elliot	<u>Delegate:</u>
	Bill Hardaway	Betsy Baumgardner
<u>Jr. Warden:</u>	Fletcher Kirkland	Wayne McDonald
Nelson Arrington	Russ Miller	
Bryant Nixon	Cindy Poe	

Harrison reported that one person will be added to the Vestry nominees and members will vote to approve the slate via email once the person has confirmed his acceptance of the nomination. There must be 100% participation for it to be a valid election. Harrison will send out an email with the slate and Vestry will vote yes or no to approve the slate.

2. Canterbury Counseling Center Board Election:
Milton Bates made a motion to approve the Reverend Steven Roades as a Canterbury Counseling Center Board member. Norma seconded the motion. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

1. Faith in Action:

Anne Arrington reported that the 10% task force recently met. Sam Erwin, Josh Hudson, Reg Brooker, Ashley Reynolds, George McCall, Kevin Mertens and Anne Arrington worked as a subcommittee of the Faith in Action Committee to address several questions posed by the Rector for providing direction to the budgeting process and specifically Faith in Action funding.

- To the question ***What is outreach?*** We answered that it is services benefitting “the least of these” based on the biblical guidance of Matthew 25. That includes **Direct grants to community and world missions, indirect financial support to outreach ministries and their facilities, and a percentage of outreach staff salaries.**
- What counts as money available for outreach?
 - **10% of annual giving, (based on biblical guidance for tithing), plus endowment grants designated for outreach, plus additional parishioner donations to the church designated for outreach projects**
- How do we value the impact of outreach to the community?
 - As **-Part of Annual Meeting Report we report:** the multiplied or leveraged value of donations, and the volunteer hours that go into projects.

2. Food Assistance report:

Christ Church has prepared over 54,500 meals as of September 15. Out of the over 500 lunches a day, Monday through Thursday, Christ Church prepares for Project Host, following is a summary of where they go:

- Sunday through Friday, Project Host uses at least 200 a day at their soup kitchen = 1200
- Monday through Friday, Pleasant Valley Baptist Church takes 50 a day for their shut ins = 250
- Tuesday the Food Truck delivers 100 lunches to the Spartanburg-Greenline Community = 100
- Wednesday the Food Truck delivers 150 lunches to the New Washington Heights Community = 150
- Thursday the Food Truck delivers 350 lunches to the San Souci and Nicholtown Communities. = 350

There were also 27 meals a day delivered to Sterling for its summer program. That will possibly restart in October. We also provided meals for Gateway House for two days in August during their move.

3. Resource Development:

Penn Williams reported that the Annual Giving cabinet met and struggled with what tone to take given what an unusual year 2020 has been. The committee decided that the tone is gratefulness. This year's focus will be on participation with a secondary focus on recurring gifts. Penn reminded the Vestry that they are considered leadership givers and they will be asked to make pledges before the end of the month. Please consider a bank draft and recurring gift. Lauren Sigmon will email a link tomorrow for online pledging. Penn said that, as a personal touch, Lauren is taking cinnamon rolls and cheddar pecan biscuits to the top 25 donors. This is a great way to make someone smile and yet not cross any COVID boundaries.

Harrison noted that 2021 is only the second time in 200 years Christ Church will have a female senior warden. He said it will be a significant moment.

Ben Horne closed the meeting with prayer at 6:04 pm.