

Christ Church Vestry Minutes

Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 5:00 PM

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Dena Benedict (Senior Warden), Nelson Arrington (Junior Warden), Milton Bates, Emily Davis, Jordan Earle, Betsy Elliott, Sam Erwin, Elizabeth Fletcher, Norma Givens, Bill Hardaway, Nancy Kennedy, Chris Klasing (Co-Treasurer), Russ Miller (Secretary of the Vestry), Dan Seaman (Co-Treasurer), Reid Sherard, Penn Williams, Michelle Brown (Clerk of the Vestry).

Attending Via Zoom: Cindy Poe, Cecil Nelson (Chancellor)

Absent: Wade Kolb (Assistant Chancellor)

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod opened the meeting with prayer at 5:05 PM.

Executive Summary of Actions:

- The Vestry approved a motion to approve the May minutes as presented.
- The Vestry approved a motion to use \$5,000 in the Affordable Housing Reserve Account to fund one year of rent and utilities for one family in transitional housing through IHN.

Community Moment:

Cindy Poe talked about the landscape and grounds. She really enjoyed meeting people in the church that are now lifelong friends with her during the Joyful Garden Tours. She also spoke about the \$350,000 from the Beth Croft Endowment and how they were able to put that money back into the grounds at Christ Church.

Cecil Nelson talked about the community as a sense of belonging to something bigger than ourselves. He feels the smaller the community the more effective the groups and the purpose they meet for working with parish groups is his community.

Norma Givens talked about the community as collective and synergy to one body. The reason she is here is to worship and grow. We commune as one body and one blood sharing with other communities with outreach in helping others. She spoke about Christ Church and how they gave her and her family comfort during her mother's passing.

Rector's Report:

Harrison reported on his reflection regarding the vaccine mandate and how he was ready to go forward until he began to re-think his initial thoughts. He had a conversation with other individuals that did not think the way he did about that topic, which left him thinking, "Is this who we want to be?" "This is not my body, this is the body of Christ, and we are dependent one upon the other, one body in Christ."

Comments:

Many different comments and views came from the Vestry regarding Harrison report.

Staff Update:

Gina Ginsburg started working in communications on Monday, October 18, 2021. She will be part time working 20 hours per week. Kellie Wilson and Harrison had a conversation regarding a young lady interested in the Assistant Youth position, who happens to be a student at Wofford and will be graduating in May. Harrison is excited about what she will be bringing to the youth department and would be willing to hire her before she graduates.

Senior Warden's Report:

Dena Benedict began with a thank you for the Vestry volunteers at Fluor Field. Christ Church is host of the Diocesan Convention and volunteers are needed. Contact Rachel Clark for those details. The Liturgy & Worship Department is starting a children's program called Children's Sabbath during the Wednesdays Common Table. Part of the program is to educate the children on various areas of worship in the church. On November 14th, the children will lead on of the 10:30am. services.

Junior Warden's Report:

Nelson had nothing to report

Treasurer's Report:

Dan Seaman reported the financial results appear to be trending for the end of the year. Through September, revenue continues at budget. While fourth quarter revenue needs to be a bit stronger than last year's COVID stressed fourth quarter, 2019's 4th quarter – absent COVID stress, was actually \$160,000 better than the 2020 quarter. Since we are emerging from COVID, it is reasonable to expect a stronger fourth quarter and that revenues will meet budget for the year. At the same time COVID pressures appear to have produced under-spending on expenses by about \$100,000, correcting for timing on endowment draws and some expenses. Thus, it appears that the year might end with needing to take \$100,000 less than the budgeted \$136,000 draw from the Deficit Reserve. Not yet calling this a forecast; but this is the current trajectory.

2021 Distribution for Christ Church Funds Quarter 4

MOTION: Milton Bates made a motion to approve the fourth quarter Endowment draw for \$144,673. Jordan Earle seconded the motion. All were in favor with no opposes. The motion was passed.

September Meeting Minutes:

The September 21 meeting minutes were presented prior to the meeting.

MOTION: Elizabeth Fletcher made a motion to approve the September 21st minutes as presented. Sam Erwin seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

New Business:**Outreach Spending Resolution**

Sam Erwin talked about Outreach Spending through Faith in Action. A redraft of the 10% Resolution was made, which he read as follows:

With the intention of affirming the spirit of all previous vestry resolutions seeking to articulate Jesus' call on our lives and our faithful stewardship of time, talent, and treasure, we offer the following resolution.

The chief purpose of the Church is to invite all of God's children into a reconciling, joyful and life-giving relationships with the Risen Christ and with each other.

We affirm that every gift comes from God and that we are blessed to be able to use these gifts for the building up of God's Kingdom and the proclamation of God's name.

As a faithful response to the Church's purpose, as an expression of our confidence in the power of the resurrection and in anticipation of the next chapter in our life together as a parish, Christ Church commits a faithful and generous amount of our annual resources for the benefit of the "least of these."

Sam stated outreach comes in many forms; it is not just about writing a check.

There is \$16,500 increase over the past year along with a \$135,000 endowment with an additional \$22,000 to be used. The Resolution gives the Vestry flexibility.

There was a back-and-forth conversation about what outreach stands for. There is outreach as well as in-reach and both are important, they allow the church to grow. Back in the day, money was given to build a community, but now sweat equity is used for many types of programs.

Harrison had no budget to present, but the Treasurers and the Business Office and Harrison worked hard for increasing outreach in the amount of \$16,500 for next year.

With no other questions or comments Harrison asked if everyone was ready to vote.

MOTION: Sam Erwin made a motion to enter the Draft Resolution for Vestry consideration. Milton Bates seconded the motion.

All were in favor with one opposed.

Sterling Hope Center Bylaw Change

Jordan Earle presented the Bylaws for Sterling Hope Center, which is a piece of business with two components; one is Faith in Action and the other is the actual property which was given to the church years ago. This is a program like what the church does with Canterbury Counseling Center. The church owns the building, and the business is separate from Christ Church Episcopal. They would have their own by laws and the accounting will be separate. The debate is whether there should be a mandate that states there should be one or more parishioners on the board always has been removed. Ann Arrington and Jordan Earle are on the board. Christ Church provides some funding, but Bon Secours provides a significant amount of funding. The committee voted on this to present to the Vestry.

MOTION: Jordan Earle made a motion for approval to adopt the By Laws. Norma Givens seconded the motion.

There was a discussion that went on regarding ownership of the organization and the property itself.

With no other questions or comments Harrison asked if everyone was ready to vote.

All were in favor with no one opposed. The motion passed.

Other Business

Approval of the September 29th Slate of Vestry and Delegate Nominees meeting minutes were presented and voted on prior to the meeting via email.

MOTION: Nelson Arrington made a motion to adopt the September 29 email meeting minutes as presented. Elizabeth Fletcher seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Committee/Team Repots

Penn Williams – Annual Giving

Kristin Bennett is doing an excellent job. Leadership pledge brochures were supposed to go out today. Pledges can be made online or by mail. Dena Benedict added staff is at 100% of pledges for 2022 and the Annual Giving Cabinet is two pledges shy of their goal.

Emily Davis – CCES, Engagement & Hospitality

Chantal did a wonderful job for Discovery Weekend which will take place October 22nd thru 24th.

Reid Sherard – Preschool

The preschool will move to more of a ministry of the church instead of a stand-alone.

Norma Givens – Worship Community

The Clergy Klatch will hold a four- week program that will begin October 20th at 5:30pm in the All Saints Center. The series is called The Real Housewives of the Bible.

Bill Hardaway – Engagement Project

Shannon Dew is working on Enneagram with the staff who will be divided in four groups eight people each. Each group meeting will be up to two hours. Harrison is having one on ones with Shannon. There will be four more sessions for 2022. There will be four more sessions for 2022.

Nominations/Elections: Committee

Penn Williams, had a follow up Vestry Slate Nominations:

27 Ballots

15 Online

12 Paper

25 Nominations

Not having the church open during COVID could have hindered nominations.

Comments:

There has been some concern, since COVID began, that parishioners that have been out may not come back. The consensus seems to be that the staff is doing everything they know to do to try and bring life back into the church with all the different activities and programs that are now available.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13.