

***To love others as Christ loves us”***  
**Christ Church Vestry Minutes**  
**Christ Church**  
**Tuesday, November 28, 2023**  
**5:00 pm**

**Attending:** Harrison McLeod (Rector), Bill Hardaway (Senior Warden), Bryant Nixon (Junior Warden), Nelson Arrington (Asst. Treasurer), Betsy Baumgardner, Betsy Elliott, Betty Parker Ellis, Norma Givens, Julie Haas, Dexter Hagy, Kay Jenkins, Chris Klasing (Treasurer), Paul Landis (by phone), Martha Louise Lewis, Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), Cindy Poe, Phil Peterson, and Rose Cuddy (Substituting for Clerk of the Vestry).

**Not in Attendance:** Sam Erwin, Josh Hudson (Secretary of the Vestry), Wade Kolb (Asst. Chancellor)

**Guests:** Bryan Hiott, Kevin Mertens, Fabio Neira, Jim Cothran

Harrison McLeod, Rector, opened the meeting in prayer at 5:00 PM.

**Welcome**

Harrison began by thanking the Vestry and a donor for the new 15 passenger van visible in the church parking lot and delivered today.

**Ministry Area Update**

Harrison welcomed Kevin Mertens (Director of Faith in Action), Jim Cothran (Facilities Director) and Fabio Neira (Assistant Facilities Director) guests for tonight’s Ministry Area Update from the Staff.

Kevin described a week in the life of Faith in Action, November 6-12, to give the Vestry an idea of what is typical for Facilities, Outreach, Food Service Ministries, and Welcoming Ministries that comprise the Faith in Action Ministry Area.

Jim Cothran gave remarks about what a busy place Christ Church is and the behind the scenes role of the Facilities department in everything that happens at the church. Fabio Neira supervises the JumpStart grounds crew among other duties. Fabio expressed his thanks for the opportunity to work at Christ Church and described his job as fun. Gary Farrar, Facilities Tech, is scheduled to work Wednesday-Sunday and thus was not in attendance tonight.

The Vestry expressed their thanks for the Faith in Action Team.

**New Business**

Harrison recognized Bryan Hiott and Kevin Mertens, who respectively are discerning a call to the Priesthood and a call to the Diaconate. He read the job descriptions for both positions.

Bryan made remarks to the Vestry and described his involvement at Christ Church and his call to ordination. Supporting materials required for the process of nominating him for ordination were provided to the Vestry in advance. Bryan, who teaches college-level art, spoke about the need for bi-vocational priests in small parishes throughout our diocese. The Vestry had the opportunity to engage in questions and answers with Bryan.

Kevin spoke to the Vestry about his call to be a permanent Deacon for a lifetime of service through the ministry of charity, the ministry of the Liturgy, and the ministry of the Word.

The Vestry engaged in questions and answers with Kevin. Kevin clarified that the position of Deacon is an unpaid position and that he hopes that he would continue to work full time at Christ Church, but would also serve as a Deacon here or at another congregation for the stated 10 hours a week.

Harrison explained that the Vestry's approval tonight would allow Bryan and Kevin to move to the next step in the process. After Vestry nomination, they would each write a letter to the Bishop saying that they accept the nomination.

#### **Bryan Hiott – Nomination for Ordination to the Priesthood**

**Motion:** Norma Givens moved to nominate David Bryan Hiott for ordination to the Priesthood in Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina. Dexter Hagy seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

#### **Kevin Mertens – Vestry Nomination to the Diaconate**

**Motion:** Bill Hardaway moved to nominate Kevin S. Mertens for ordination to the Diaconate in the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina. Kay Jenkins seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

#### **Rector's Report – Harrison McLeod**

- Chantal Smith has resigned as Director of Welcoming Ministries & Registrar for a position with Michelin.
- Harrison asked the leadership team for thoughts on the open positions and the need for more administrative assistance for ministry areas that currently have none.
- He complimented the November 19 Annual Meeting.
- Annual Giving is right on track with 2.1 million pledged toward a 2.8 million goal.
- The December Vestry meeting will include a party at Harrison & Jennifer McLeod's home.
- Christ Church has leased 101 Broadus to Sentinel, a business that implements ankle bracelets for court ordered supervision. This business was previously across the street on East Washington.
- Michelle Brown, currently Rector's Assistant, will transition to the role of Coordinator for Pastoral Care; and Shantel Lee, currently Receptionist & HR Assistant, will transition to the Rector's Assistant position.
- Harrison has talked to the Wardens about having a lay person to serve as Secretary of the Vestry for at least a year term or ongoing non-voting responsibility such as Chancellor or Treasurer. He asked the Vestry to consider who might be willing to serve in this volunteer capacity and let him, Bill or Bryant know.

### Senior Warden – Bill Hardaway

- Bill said that the newly elected Vestry members will be invited to the December Vestry meeting and party prior to their terms beginning January 1, 2024.
- Bill complimented the kitchen staff and volunteers and the food they prepared and served at the diocesan convention. He complimented the Bishop and Stephen Rhoades on an efficient annual meeting.
- Bill congratulated Paul Landis on the birth of his new daughter, Sellers.
- Norma drew the Vestry's attention to the recently sealed and striped parking lot and the new signage around campus.

### Junior Warden – Bryant Nixon

- Bryant commented on the annual meeting and read from his report at the meeting about what else we need to be doing and how to use and improve our resources.

### Treasurer's Report – Chris Klasing

- The last two months have been very good and we are ahead of budget.
- Building & Grounds is about \$20,000 over budget due to a number of minor needs on campus.
- We dipped into the operating reserve in October for about \$60,000, a normal seasonal occurrence.
- Chris has been working with Kellie on the CCEP budget and said that Kellie is doing a wonderful job of working on a longer range plan for the preschool, which includes some tuition increases.

### Approval of Minutes

**Motion:** Martha Louise moved to accept October 17, 2023, minutes after the following amendments. Betsy Baumgardner seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

- *P. 1 Martha Louise Lewis is the school's Vestry liaison and gave her perspective with CCES as communicant, alumni and parent of alumni at this hallmark mission of Christ Church.*
- *P. 3. **Motion:** Martha Louise Lewis made a motion to include that Harrison reminded the Vestry present that this was a called meeting so that the Resolution was the only item on the agenda. Dexter Hagy seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed.*

- **Committee/Team Reports**

#### *Martha Louise Lewis*

- *Martha Louise invited all to come worship at CCES and provided a schedule of regular services.*

### Other New Business

### **Parish House Distribution Request**

The Vestry was asked to consider a Christ Church Endowment Funding Request for \$12,000 from the Parish House fund for kitchen water heater replacement. The request form had been submitted by Kevin Mertens, Director of Faith In Action.

**Motion:** Cindy Poe moved to approve the Christ Church Endowment Funding Request for \$12,000 from the Parish House fund for kitchen water heater replacement. Phil Peterson seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

### **2024 Budget Process Recommendation**

- Nelson Arrington presented the 2024 budget process recommendation. He drew the attention of the Vestry to a line for an adjustment 439,000, for which fundraising efforts are underway.
- \$150,000 is available as a reserve fund if needed to make this amount.
- In response to a question, Nelson said that in February when all pledges have come in and if the budget has not been made and if the reserve is not enough, then budget cuts would be made and submitted to the Vestry for approval.
- Discussion ensued. The Vestry expressed interest in seeing what line items could be included in the 439,000 adjustments. It was noted that the line item does not include one-time expenses.
- Bryant Nixon spoke in favor of asking for one-time gifts of people who've already pledged as a potential new method for additional income.
- The suggestion was for the Vestry to meet for additional discussion about the budget prior to voting on the budget at an upcoming meeting.

### **Committee/Team Reports**

- No Reports were given.

Devotion was offered by Betsy Baumgardner.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8: 18 pm.