

To love others as Christ loves us”

Christ Church Vestry Minutes

Tuesday, March 21, 2023

5:00 pm

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Bill Hardaway (Senior Warden), Bryant Nixon (Junior Warden), Nelson Arrington (Asst. Treasurer), Norma Givens, Dexter Hagy, Kay Jenkins, Chris Klasing (Treasurer), Wade Kolb (Asst. Chancellor), Martha Louise Lewis, Gracen Miller (Youth Vestry Representative), Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), Phil Peterson, Cindy Poe, and Michelle Brown (Clerk of the Vestry).

Zoom: Betsy Baumgardner, Betty Parker Ellis, Sam Erwin, Julie Haas

Absent: Betsy Elliott, Josh Hudson, (Secretary of the Vestry), Paul Landis, Elizabeth Saylor (Youth Vestry Representative)

Guests: Milton Bates, Dena Benedict, Lindy Bunch, Scott Fleischer, Bern Mebane, Kellie Wilson. All previous wardens, elected since 2008 and who remain as active members of the parish, were invited to attend. Additionally, current active clergy were also invited.

The meeting was opened with prayer from the Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod at 5:05pm.

Former Wardens and current Christ Church clergy were invited to the vestry meeting by Harrison and the current wardens in order to “broaden” the perspective on the conversation regarding Harrison’s draft letter shared with the vestry at the February vestry meeting in which he stated his desire to be able to offer the sacrament of marriage to same sex couples under the same consideration he now offers to heterosexual couples.

So that everyone can participate Harrison asked for a motion to grant seat and voice to Milton Bates (prior Warden), Dena Benedict (prior Warden), Lindy Bunch (Clergy), Scott Fleischer (Clergy), Bern Mebane (prior Warden), and Kellie Wilson (Clergy).

Motion: Dexter Hagy made a motion to grant a seat and voice to the visiting warden’s and clergy to participate in the conversation. Cindy Poe seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Harrison referred back to the draft letter he presented to the vestry at the February meeting and wanted to invite further conversation. In response to Bishop Waldo’s announcement to the EDUSC regarding the blessing of same gender unions, Harrison wrote a letter in May of 2013 stating that he would not authorize these rites for use at Christ Church." Because his beliefs have changed, and his desire to be able to offer the sacrament of marriage to same sex couples, he felt he had to share with the parish his discernment.

The goals for this portion of the meeting are to:

1. Listen to each other.

2. Discuss – your voice is valuable, and we depend on each other to share in the conversation.
3. Are we able to discern some direction? What happens next? Begin to get some clarity.
4. We owe it to the parish to communicate this conversation.

Harrison invited all in attendance for a discussion.

An hour long conversation resulted expressing many diverse thoughts, opinions, and beliefs regarding the nature of the sacraments, pastoral oversight of the sacraments, the vestry's role in participating in guidance to the clergy along with specific canonical roles for vestry and clergy.

Without the need for a motion, the decision was made to solicit opinions, questions, comments or concerns from parishioners. A process of sharing with the parish the vestry's conversation and discernment regarding offering the sacrament of marriage to same sex couples at Christ Church defined (based on Christ Church Charlotte) will be implemented. It was also decided that a "study" group would be formed of current vestry members to seek out local churches as well as other Episcopal Churches to learn of their conversations and experiences. The group will gather information from churches (both Episcopal and non-Episcopal) that have made a decision to offer (or not offer) same sex marriages. Additionally, they will gather information regarding the steps these parishes took to communicate their discernment and decision and the experience of the parish resulting from their decisions. They will report their learnings to the vestry as quickly as practical.

Communication will go out to the parish from Bill and Harrison that lets everyone know that the vestry is involved in this discussion and what the next steps will be.

Rectors Report – Harrison McLeod

- Duane Brunson is no longer with Christ Church and Gary Farrar is in his position in facilities.
- A group of individuals gathered last week to talk about affordable housing. It included the mayor, Knox White, and some vestry members.
- The Parish Retreat was great, last year there was a discussion the retreat did not lead to anything. This year the retreat advertised our Wednesday night programming, where we are offering a program based on the enneagram, how idols are constructed, and how they separate us from God. Spence Taylor teaches the class with an attendance of about 70. There has also been a Men's Bible Study for younger men that has about 30 in attendance. This class is facilitated by Pete Murray and Scott Fleischer.
- Bishop will be here April 23 for confirmation. There will be a lunch meeting afterwards.

The vestry is invited to the Nehemiah Action Affordable Housing Meeting being held on Tuesday, March 28.

Senior Warden – Bill Hardaway

Thank you for your candid remarks and feedback.

Junior Warden – Bryant Nixon

There is a hot and cold-water system that doesn't work very well. The goal is to heat and cool spaces simultaneously in the Parish House. It is Bryant's recommendation to have the boiler system replaced with a new high efficiency unit. There are two very old boilers that need to be taken care of. There is a preliminary design from Clark Patterson and Lee, with a quote from Johnson Controls, who does our service work, for \$182,000. After conversations with Clark Patterson and Lee, the quote has gone up to

\$197,000. It is recommended to put aside \$250,000 to insure everything will be covered. The boilers are about the size of a VW and extensive coordination will have to take place to get them out and through the gates of the Preschool area.

Harrison asked for a motion to replace the boiler as approved by Bryant Nixon's recommendation and ask the Treasurer's to identify which is the most responsible source for the funds, which would be T Bills or Hatch Fund. Before the motion was made a discussion took place on the subject.

The recommendation from the treasurers, Chris Klasing and Nelson Arrington, was to use money invested from the T Bills and not the Hatch fund.

Motion: Martha Louise Lewis made a motion to undertake the renovation as per Bryant Nixon's description and source of funds would be from the T Bills and not us the Hatch Fund. Phil Peterson seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Treasurer Report – Chris Klasing

- January was pretty much on budget.
- Preschool – broke even because a reserve was used of \$59,000 from a DHEC Grant due to an increase in spending and to retain staff.
- The building at 101 Broadus has a tenant who will not be renewing their lease in September. A walk through will take place to determine if the building can be rented out as is, or with improvements. When Suzanne returns to work next week, a group will sit down with McNeil and go over recommendations.

A final adjustment was passed out for the 2023 Budget.

Chris Klasing page 2:

Adjustments from Draft Budget Vestry Approved

Revenue

Pledge Revenue	(\$25,189)
Interest Income T Bill addition	\$46,532
Net Increase in Budget Revenue	\$21,343

Expenses

Endowment Funding	\$6,196
FIA Ministry Area Grants	(\$34,978)
Change in Rental Allocation	\$15,110
Deficit Reserve	\$35,015
Net Decrease in Budget Expenses	\$21,343

Motion: Chris entered these the changes in the budget. This was gone over in the Finance Committee meeting and the recommendation is these changes be approved. Coming from the committee there does not need to be a second. There was no discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

February minutes will be voted on electronically.

New Business

No updates

Committee/Team Reports

No updates

Devotion offered by Bryant Nixon

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 8:30 pm.