***“To love others as Christ loves us”***

**Christ Church Episcopal Vestry Minutes**

**Christ Church All Saints Center – Room 100**

**Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

**Attending:** Harrison McLeod (Rector), Bill Hardaway (Senior Warden), Bryant Nixon (Junior Warden), Nelson Arrington (Treasurer), Betsy Baumgardner, Betty Parker Ellis, Norma Givens, Dexter Hagy, Chris Klasing (Asst. Treasurer), Paul Landis, Martha Louise Lewis, Smyth McKissick IV, Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), Phil Peterson, and Angelle Reichert.

**Attending by Phone**: Julie Haas

**Not in Attendance:** Kay Jenkins, Mary Holt Murphy, Wade Kolb III (Asst Chancellor)

**Guests**: The Reverend Kellie Wilson (Senior Associate Rector; Director of Children & Youth Formation, CCEP) and Christine Skelton (CCEP Executive Director)

**Welcome & Prayer**

The Reverend Dr. Harrison McLeod (Rector) opened the meeting in prayer at 5:02 p.m. He recognized Betty Parker Ellis as stepping in to serve as Secretary of the Vestry for this meeting.

**Ministry Area Update**

Harrison welcomed Kellie Wilson and Christine Skelton to give a ministry area update on the Christ Church Episcopal Preschool (CCEP).

Christine, who has been in education since 1995 and with CCEP for the last eight years, started out with a quiz to provide the Vestry members with an overview of CCEP and gave highlights of their competitive features.

Kellie, who has been at Christ Church for seven years, began in 2022 to work together with CCEP to bring it more into the life of the church. She outlined the current CCEP projects as well as the financial progress that are all underway. She provided several handouts for added detail.

The Vestry asked them questions and expressed their thanks for CCEP.

**New Business**

Harrison recognized Kellie as speaking for Addie Tapp who is discerning a call to the Priesthood and is a student at Virginia Theological Seminary. Of the three essential approvals for Addie, she must first be ordained into the transitional dioconate. Kellie read Addie’s job description and expressed support for Addie having known her and seeing the call in her when she was a student at Furman University and worked with Youth Ministry.

Harrison explained that the Vestry’s approval tonight would allow Addie to move to the next step in the process.

**Addie Tapp – Nomination for Ordination to the Priesthood**

**Motion:** Norma Givens moved to nominate Addie Tapp for ordination to the Priesthood in Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina. Betty Parker Ellis seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

**Rector’s Report – Harrison McLeod**

Harrison noted that**:**

* The new year started strong after a remarkable Christmas Eve with 2,232 people attending the services that day. This is compared to 2,036 that attended in 2022 and was 855 short of the 2019 attendance.
* The new Explorer’s Sunday School class started off with close to 50 people bursting at the seams in the Earle Conference Room. This class is for people in their 60s as a way for them to get to know each other.
* Although discussing the 2024 Budget was not on tonight’s agenda, it was noted that the budget made up of three kinds of expenses: Non-Discretionary, Semi-Discretionary, and Discretionary. For FY 2024, an effort has been made to raise additional money by soliciting one-time gifts. We are close to meeting our $439K goal, and Harrison is confident that we will reach it. There are questions about how we should responsibly use these one-time gifts and how they are different than money received as increased pledges.A short discussion followed to add more clarity to this matter.
* A Strategic Initiatives Task Force will look at four areas: Resource Development, Engagement, Master Planning, and Governance. Their work will include an examination and possible update of our bylaws, which have not been updated for approximately 25 years, and work to find and encourage adoption of best practices in all areas of stewardship.
* Vestry ministry area assignments will be completed in time for Vestry Retreat.

**Senior Warden’s Report – Bill Hardaway**

* Welcomed two of the new Vestry members – Smyth McKissick and Angelle Reichert and recognized Phil Peterson as returning for a three-year term.
* Wished Paul Landis a Happy Birthday.
* Announced that the Vestry Retreat will start on Friday evening, Feb. 9, in the home of Stacey and Bryant Nixon. Then Saturday, Feb. 10, we will meet at Greenville Tech’s Truist Culinary and Hospitality Innovation Center located in the Poe West building at 556 Perry Ave, Ste B114, Greenville, SC 29611.

**Junior Warden’s Report – Bryant Nixon**

* No report but is looking forward to the Master Planning efforts.

**Treasurer’s Report – Chris Klasing**

* Chris referred to the monthly Treasurer’s report distributed earlier by email.
* He reported that December’s financial performance was disappointing. December’s total revenue, monthly pledge revenue, and YTD total revenue were all below budget. There are still underpaid 2023 pledges still to come. We will have the final numbers by the end of this week.
* There are still a few minor open items to finalize these numbers and expect the yearend deficit to be about $90K which will have to be made up by an additional deficit reserve draw.
* Tax statements for 2023 will go out in two weeks.

Harrison thanked Nelson Arrington for providing to the Vestry the Summary Budget Committee Recommendation. He recognized Nelson who explained this report to the Vestry and answered their questions.

**Approval of Minutes from December 19, 2023**

**Motion:** Phil Peterson moved to accept the December 19, 2023, minutes as presented. Smyth McKissick seconded the motion. No discussion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

**Committee/Team Reports**

* Phil Peterson announced that Safety Committee is hosting “Critical Safety Training for Worship Volunteers” for the Usher/Greeter/Verger teams to be held on Sunday, January 28, at 12 noon in ASC 100. Lunch is provided.
* Julie Haas reminded everyone of two upcoming events from Parish Life: Parish Oyster Roast on Saturday, Jan. 20, and the Intergenerational Women’s Bible Study starting on Monday, Jan. 22, at 6 p.m. featuring the book Finding I Am.

**Other Business**

None

Devotion was offered by Paul Landis.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 6:38 p.m.