St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Meeting of Thursday, April 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by the Junior Warden, Emily Culbertson who led the group in an opening prayer.

In attendance were: Senior Warden Mark Schneider, Junior Warden Emily Culbertson, Howie Anderson, Paul Clark, Kelly Clissold, Jack Cosbey, Jules Dulski, Stefanie Krajewski, David Langert, and Chloe White. Also in attendance were: Treasurer Johnathan White, Clerk of the Vestry John Hillman, and Rector George Arceneaux IV.

# Opening reflection: Emily Culbertson: When Emily was a young person growing up in the church, a leader asked her group to read the 23rd Psalm with attention to that psalm’s references to hospitality. Emily asked the group assembled for the Vestry meeting to repeat this effort and to see what the group came up with. What follows are some of the thoughts that were shared in the group.

## I’m not alone—I feel guided and loved by God.

## “Makes me lie down in green pastures.”

## “The presence of those who trouble me”

## “thinks of everything”

## “shadow of death”—optional—happens over time

# Administration

## Changes to the Agenda—Add: the future of the service leaflet; keys—what’s the plan?

* + 1. Emily moved to approve the change; Mark seconded; the motion passed without opposition.

## Approval of the March minutes

* + 1. Mark moved that the March minutes be approved; Emily seconded the motion; the motion passed without opposition.
  1. Treasurer’s/Finance Committee Report/Johnathan White
     1. The March deficit was roughly $3,000—slightly better than budget.
     2. Expenses were average; the largest expense was the property insurance payment.
     3. Giving was average; pledge income was slightly lower than expected.
        1. Now that giving for the quarter has been recorded, the plan is to send quarterly recaps to parishioners.
     4. The checking account balance was $18,000 at the end of March, after accounting for pending transactions.
     5. Investment values rose solidly in March, with gains of roughly $17,000.
        1. There was also a transfer into the investment account of $7,000.
        2. Total investments were $572,000 at the end of March, up from $549,000 at the beginning of the month.
     6. March was a mixed month, but generally within the expected variance.
  2. Buildings & Grounds Committee Report
     1. The removal of the altar step has occurred.
     2. The contemplated lowering of the canopy behind the altar would be difficult and expensive to complete; the result is that it will be more difficult to change the banners behind the altar.
     3. Question: Would we remain ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant if the elevator were not operational at all times? Could it be activated on an as-needed basis?
     4. It was agreed that if parishioners volunteered to work on gardening, their expenses for purchasing plants could be reimbursed.
     5. There is still work to be done in documenting the manual processes performed by Marty Dunlavey so that other members of the parish have received training in these activities.
  3. Committee Liaison Sign-up
     1. Dave Lambert volunteered to join the Stewardship Committee
     2. Emily Culbertson has agreed to chair the Outreach Committee.
     3. Jenn Urso is continuing to work with the Parish Life Committee
  4. Safe Church Training Modules Checking
     1. Emily encouraged everyone to complete a minimum of one safe church training module each month.

1. Rector’s Report and Preparation for Rector’s Paternity Leave [The leave may begin by the end of May or in early June. The baby’s due date is June 9th. Or is it June 12th?]
   1. **[“*Remember to oil the organ pump every two weeks!”]***
   2. Vestry Assistance
      1. Opening church for 8am Service—Sacristy keys; who greets newcomers
         1. The church needs to be opened by 7:30 a.m.
         2. The sacristy should be left unlocked.
      2. Wiggle Worship—recruiting families to lead service; Welcome Team; post-WW activities
         1. Bob will likely not be involved in leading WW.
         2. The leader needs to:
            1. Write and read the Collect
            2. Retell/Summarize the Gospel story
            3. Communicate the Word
            4. Distribute the eucharist from the reserved host and wine
         3. 11 a.m. Service---Welcome Team
         4. Communications—decisions about Messenger and Reflections content
         5. Events—June 2nd Picnic and Day in Our Village; outreach event
         6. Preparation for fall formation kickoff
         7. Signage and bumper stickers
      3. Hearthsides start-up
      4. The rector distributed a written report addressing:
         1. Overview and Paternity Planning
         2. Liturgy and Bulletins
         3. Programming and events
         4. Pastoral Care
         5. Wiggle Worship
         6. One Vestry [meeting] More!
2. Parishioner Check-in: Who is missing?
   1. A few names were mentioned and discussed.
3. Upcoming events
   1. 04/19 Thank You God For Video Games (Kids and family event)
   2. 04/28: Chili Cook Off
   3. 07/07 Outdoor Sunshine Service (Blue Christmas in Summer)
   4. Fourth of July Friendly Sunday Summer Star Wars Movie Night (Largely because I owe the non-swifties a flick night)
   5. 09/01 – George performing a wedding in MKE
   6. 09/02 – Labor Day
   7. 09/08 – Kick-off Sunday (Prepare the bounce house!)
   8. Late September/Early October: Fall Celebration of Richard’s ministry
   9. 10/26? Donut Day
   10. 10/31 Halloween for the Neighborhood at St. C.’s
   11. 11/03 All Saint’s Sunday with Evensong (Meal before Evensong?)
   12. 11/24 Christ the King
   13. 11/28 Thanksgiving (Morning Prayer either at church or over Zoom)
   14. 12/5 Advent Craft Night (5pm)
   15. 12/15 Greening the Church and Lessons and Carols
   16. 12/19 Blue Christmas
   17. 12/24 - 4PM Kid Friendly Christmas Eve; 10PM Christmas Eve
   18. 12/25 - 10AM Christmas Day Service
   19. Late Feb/Early March: Chili cook off
4. Closing Prayer and Adjournment
   1. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 pm, following prayer led by George.

### There was no executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hillman, Clerk of the Vestry