

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

15 August 2022 / 6:45 PM / Parish Hall

In Attendance: Rector Fr. Randy Johnson, Senior Warden Chris Mayr, Junior Warden Karen Hartman, Ross Ackerman, Madisen Crow, Alexander Kun, Patrick Ahern, Ann DePaolis-Jones, Leslie Norton, Clerk Robert Williams, Eric Hedican, Cheryl Bailey, Tom Linder - Finance Team member
Absent:

AGENDA:

Opening Prayer and Vestry Covenant Reading Opening Prayer by Fr. Randy & the Vestry Covenant Reading by Ross Ackerman

Additions to Agenda:

Minutes Review and Approval: 16 July 2022 Vestry Minutes: Karen made a motion to approve the minutes; Ann seconded the motion; unanimous approval.

Pulse of Parish Presenters: 9:30 a.m. service by Pat

Team Reports:

Team liaisons were announced and encouraged to reach out to the corresponding group leaders.

Finance: Pat /Tom: Summer income tends to be lower. We are ahead in income for the offerings thanks largely to folks who fulfill their pledge at the beginning of the year, quarterly or monthly. The building use income is very close to 100%. For expenses, budgeted \$24,000 for salary & benefits monthly; it has been closer to \$17,000. We are still largely ahead because Fr. Randy is still half-time; & we are starting to count the youth director's income, if we had hired a youth director. The expenses are lower because of that. Last month, we spent more on facilities than we planned: the annual fire extinguisher service, the gutter replacement by the sacristy, the electrician in May, and the tree removal was more than expected. The removal of the trees was \$6,800 instead of \$3,100. Last month, the heating bill was low, but for the year, we are over budget in heating. The budget is going well overall. We are ahead for Mission & Ministry Support to ECMN because we paid in full. Next year, we will have to pay more to this because it is based on the previous year's income, which was up. The Finance Committee is starting on the budget for 2022 -2033 budget.

Altar Guild: Nothing to add (Karen).

Buildings & Ground: Gutters were installed. Most of the trees were removed with stumps to be ground out and one tree to go. All of the expenses we discussed happened last month. (Chris)

Children's Ministries: We had a great showing for Vacation Bible School. School supply collection & the annual hayride on 22 October. (Eric)

Communications: nothing to add. (Madisen)

Community Dinner/Keystone: nothing to add. (Ross)

Faith Family Welfare: Helping Hands will assist with packages or bags for children who are active members at the church this month this coming Thursday. (Cheryl/Karen)

Gardens: The garden is going well. Currently lots of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, & squash. People are rotating weeks. It has been drier than normal. The garden has been watered. This week alone 30 pounds of vegetables have been taken to the Keystone food shelf. (Leslie)

GreenTeam: Nothing to add. Update: The Green Team has been contacted about the possibility of hosting a spot on the Sustainability Tour that would occur 1 -2 October. In discussion, not certain if the tour will be virtual or in-person. It would showcase our solar panels. (Alexander/Leslie)

Hearts & Hands, Meals on Wheels: Meals on Wheels took a day off for restocking or taking a survey. We are delivering every 3rd Tuesday. Chris

Kitchen, Funeral/Caterer / Special Gatherings: Ann: Special Gatherings - Recap of 31 July Picnic About 50 - 60 people attended the picnic. There were not many left-overs from the picnic which were sent home with parishioners. The left-over ice cream in the freezer. Throughout VBS & the picnic, the garbage disposal wasn't working. A new one has been ordered and we are waiting for it to come in for installation.

Stewardship: We are hitting it next week. (Karen)

Unfinished Business:

The wheels on the legs for the altar. Buildings and Grounds looked at different products. They appear weak and would not look good attached to the altar pedestals. The rollers & variety of products to attach, it isn't going to work. Since we rarely have to move the altar, we will continue to have faith family members do what we are doing. (Chris)

As for hiring a new Youth Director or possibly partnering with a different church, we are on hold as we don't have a critical mass of youth to serve. We will in the coming years with our little folks getting older. (Fr. Randy)

New Business: Start-Up Sunday is 11 September. It is the last day of single service at 9:30. In the past, we tried to make it special for the start of the church year showcasing our programs. This year, we

want to keep it simple, e.g., rootbeer floats, ice cream sundaes, & popcorn. While they are enjoying those treats, we'll have folks fill out a survey identifying each faith family member's gifts. An example, a survey identifying or inventory of the persons' gifts checklist. Have someone administer it to make sure the person is contacted. When they are needed for the ministry, they are interested in needing some volunteers. It was discussed to have on the back of the page the current parish teams. Possibly having an adult forum, each ministry group can tell what the group or the person can explore without being committed to it. The person can do as much as they want to participate. Signs for the Start-up Sunday on the doors, in the Christ-o-gram, & the Traveler. For the Start-Up Sunday, we are estimating about 50 - 70 people to attend. (Chris and Fr. Randy)

Rector Report: The staff have had their calendar planning meeting for 2022-23. It starts getting exciting when you start peeling a couple pages off the calendar. It is Advent & Christmas. We do want to restart the Adult Forum this fall and it can be led by others rather than clergy. Rev. Marilyn and Fr. Randy are going to have a book study program featuring the book "The Church Cracked Open: Disruption, Decline, and New Hope for Beloved Community", which delving into different topics that we may not feel comfortable talking about as we come out of Covid like racial equity, food access and more. There is also interest in the topic of historical Anglican Episcopal types of things & digging into the prayer book. We are possibly looking at the ECMN pastoral ministry called "Community of Hope". It is part of Benedictine Spirituality. It was started by the Episcopal Church of Dallas, Texas. Discussed the idea of us creating a parish photo directory with photos provided by faith family members, rather than hiring a professional photographer, and including snail mail, email addresses, and phone numbers.

On Saturday, 13 August, at Don Horton's funeral, there were around 135 people with six volunteers to help Randy. We haven't had a funeral for a while. Families are still expecting funerals to be conducted like the old days even though more people are doing cremations. We are having more immediate cremations. Doing those funerals requires volunteers to help clergy, and many of those folks are no longer with us as we have celebrated their lives in the last few years, including on zoom during the pandemic. Thanks to Karen Hanna and Darlene Cross for their help with cookies, lemonade and coffee. We used to use caterers for the post funeral reception. As we come out of Covid procedures, we need to look at involving them again. Ann volunteered to find out who we used in the past. Some may not be available even or if they are still around. There are fees for the musician, but not for the priest. Some families give money as an honorarium which goes into one of our discretionary accounts. Perhaps we could specifically call out funerals as an area of need for help with the Start Up Sunday survey to identify gifts, skills and passions. Fr. Randy

Wardens' Remarks: .

Senior Warden: Thanked Ann and those members of Vestry able to help with the July 31 St. Christopher's Day Day picnic since the vestry was short-handed. (Chris)

Junior Warden: nothing to add (Karen)

Announcements/Shoutouts: Everyone that helped out with VBS set up, execution and tear down. Shout out to Darlene Cross and Karen Hanna and the others who helped with the Don Horton Celebration of Life.

Compline Reading led by Eric.

Adjournment: Motion made by Pat and seconded by Eric, unanimous approval.

NEXT MEETING is 6:45 p.m. 19 September 2022