

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

19 September 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, Eric Hedican, Cheryl Bailey, Clerk Robert Williams, Tom Linder - Finance Team member

Absent: Rector Fr. Randy Johnson & Ross Ackerman

AGENDA:

Opening Prayer and Vestry Covenant Reading: Opening Prayer to St. Christopher read by the Vestry & the Vestry Covenant Reading by Chris

Additions to Agenda:

Minutes Review and Approval: 15 August 2022 Vestry Minutes: Karen made a motion to approve the minutes; Madisen seconded the motion; unanimous approval.

Pulse of Parish Presenters for 25th September, 8:00 a.m. service by Leslie & 10:30 a.m. service by Ann

Team Reports:

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

Finance: Pat /Tom: The offerings are a little lower than forecast. A certain amount, they are pre-paid. Overall, the income is ahead of expectations. The income is around target for the year around the end of the year. For expenses, Fr. Randy is still not pulling any insurance from St. Christopher's. Fr. Randy is still part-time.

The only line item is facilities. It is largely the heating. It is behind the target mostly because of heating. Everything else is about where it should be or better. One thing that looks wrong is the Mission & Ministry is higher than expectations. That is because we paid for the entire year. We have a surplus according to Ruth's documents around \$145,000. Over the years, we have been rolling over small surpluses. Be aware, it is unprecedented.

It is quite clear that we are going very well with cash & saving money. We are in a good position. We are roughly looking at the same amount from last year. We are using \$53,930 of our surplus to balance the budget for next year. The change is pulling for the investment fund (PIF). We are sticking to the 4% vs. the 5% draw. We talked

about not taking any draws for it because of our surplus. The Diocese or the ECMN really strongly encouraged us to take a draw. The income will be roughly the same from last year. We decided to keep it at 4% draw, from the PIF.

We are looking to raise the Chinese Daycare rent to \$3,200 a month. It will make the rent an even number & also recognize that they are doing very well. The rent will be \$30 increase. Music lessons & building is going well. Music is really taking off this year. It is more than we expected. The Dellwood rent will increase by \$31.00 a month. We are running up a new lease. Currently, they are paying \$710 per month. The rent will increase to \$740.00. We are budgeting another 4% increase for the staff. We are planning to have a 4% increase every year for the staff.

For the years 2027 - 2028, we do not know what will happen to the staff. This year is a great year to do it. We will be budgeting Randy's full-time salary. Hoping, he will join us full-time. We will be budgeting his health insurance. For the rest of the staff, we are planning a 3% increase for medical insurance.

Children Ministries: Marion is moving the money for Safe Church & Background checks from Office Supplies account to Christian Education account. It is just shifting of accounts.

In the facilities, we are budgeting \$15,000 for heating next year. Already, we are at over \$11,00 for the year. In October, November, & December, we have to turn on the heat. The building cleaning services have increased over the years due to the new cleaning services. For next year, the total budget amount will be \$60,000. Compared for this year, we budgeted \$53,000. We zeroed out for tree removal.

Our biggest expense will be the Mission & Ministry Support. It will increase a bit due to our income compared to last year because of last year's income from \$46,000 to \$60,000. Our total expense for the year is \$ 473,403. Without adding the surplus, we are balanced for the rest of the year. We still have over \$100,000 in surplus. The Finance Committee has already approved next year's budget. It will go as one of the enclosures for the Annual Stewardship mailings.

Pat motion to approve the 2022 -2023's budget, seconded by Alexander; unanimous approval.

The collection plate is a little bit rusty. Our collection plate collection is down. We initiated it on Sunday, 19 September.

Altar Guild: Nothing to add (Karen).

Buildings & Ground: Everything is up to speed. St. Christopher's are looking for an outside service for our AC/VAC as a second or two person deep, if anything happens to Mark Brilowski. Pat knows a person. Who specialized in Church furnaces. He is a pipefitter so he does boilers, furnaces, AC/VAC & some electrical. Mark is not leaving us but, it is nice to have a backup just in case something happens to Mark. For snow

removal, we are using the same service. Less than 2 inches, we will ask people to shovel to sign up. Chris will talk to Jeff about snow removal. Chris

Children's Ministries: The Annual Hay Ride is Saturday, 22 October 2022, at 4:00 p.m., at Bunker Hills Stables, in Coon Rapids, Sunday School lessons have started. Eric

Communications: Nothing to add. We are trying to rebuild the communications on who knows what is really going on. It is lost a bit. We should try to rebuild the communication again. Madisen/Chris

Community Dinner/Keystone: Absent. Karen is reaching out to Keystone about the partnership and to make a call to Connie also. Ross by Karen

Faith Family Well Being: After talking to Sally Brown, they made very cute bags for the family with small kids. Try to keep the kids to stay within the Church. Everyone wants to know how this is being funded. There should be a budget for it. If they want to be reimbursed, they should submit an expense report then you should receive a check for it. How do we find out if fellow faith family members are in need of assistance? Eric suggested promoting it in our communications "heard it through the grapevine" that folks are in need of outreach and then Faith Family Well Being and Hearts and Hands teams can act upon it. Rev. Mary Rowe used to be the person to contact in such cases. Sally felt that Mary Rowe had a pulse on what was going on in the church. Mary knew the needs of the parish members. With her not around here that often it seems that liaison is somewhat gone. Is this Marilyn's role? Cheryl/Karen

Gardens: The garden has sent over 400 pounds (of produce). The expansion of the garden was successful. Last week, it was around 54 pounds (of produce.). We average around 700 pounds (of produce). Leslie

Green Team: We are planning to have a sign on what is recyclable & what is not. We are creating more awareness. We are developing an ad hoc committee to follow our members, for example, by creating some flyers with a list of videos. A video will have some attachments. Alexander/Leslie

Hearts & Hands, Meals on Wheels: Sally would like to have an assistant for Hearts & Hands. People do not really want to commit. Hearts & Hands, they do internal & external activities. Making tie blankets for Masonic Children's hospital kids. St. Christopher's gives money to Meals on Wheels to buy the food that we delivered. Chris

Kitchen, Funeral/Caterer / Special Gatherings: The Funeral Team members; Cheryl Warkentien, Darlene Cross, & Karen Hanna, love doing the work. We can educate people on things, but realize they will do the best that they can. Some events are better than others for recycling items. The Funeral Team does have a list of volunteers for making bars. Darlene will go through it and see who is no longer interested.

For funeral receptions, it takes about two people to arrange the tables. We could offer the grieving family the choice of two caterers. The family could choose cold cuts sandwiches or a hot lunch, such as hot ham & potatoes. Or we could also offer the family cookies and coffee. St. Christopher's used a caterer named "Heavenly Hosts". They are not taking on any additional events. . They are working in the schools. Ann will make a list for on-call caterers. Looking into other caterers to do the work for the families and pass the cost along to them. We would like to be simple options for the family. Darlene wants to make a list for the family of what St. Christopher's will do & want the family to do. We are trying to steer the family into cookies & coffee. We will provide the flowers, table cloths, the glassware, the plates, & the silverware. . Ann

Stewardship: We will finalize everything. It will be in the mail by Sunday. The speakers are: James (**last name**), Erin Bowland, Bruce Warkentien, Wendy Brilowski, Madisen Crow. Karen

Unfinished Business:

Recap of Start-up Sunday: It seems to have gone well. We had 75 (people) in church that day. The people appear to stay longer. The crowd was great. There were about 30 people in the parish hall.

Identifying Talents, Skills & Passions survey: They will be extra copies in the church. Ruth has the survey down-load in the newsletter. She will run this week & next week. The survey will be available until 30 September.

Adult Forum: Faith Family Teams Showcase: Have not talked about any Faith family teams showcase. We will hold off until (Rev,) Marilyn has started the book sessions.

Parish Photo Directory: Fr. Randy wants to do a photo directory. For the photo one, we have not got anywhere on that. We might have people sending in pictures & then load them up.

Fr. Randy appreciates the work Ann is doing with our Celebrations of Life catering and meeting with the volunteers: Chris for Fr. Randy

New Business: Need for Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) Another need for the faith family is the need for LEV. We can publish it in the bulletin, we are asking for more LEV. Chris for Fr. Randy

Rector Report: St. Christopher's is being considered for a deacon so that one more person can help us out. There is a possibility of a deacon being assigned. The deacon will work around 10 hours & no additional cost. It looks very positive right now. Fr. Randy by Chris

Wardens' Remarks:

Senior Warden: Nothing to add. Chris

Junior Warden: Nothing to add. Karen

Announcements/Shoutouts: Everyone who helps with State Fair Parking.

Compline Reading led by Cheryl.

Adjournment: Motion made by Karen and seconded by Leslie, unanimous approval.

NEXT MEETING is 17 October 2022, 6:45 p.m.