

# St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

17 October 2022 / 6:45 PM / Parish Hall

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

## AGENDA:

**Opening Prayer and Vestry Covenant Reading:** Opening Prayer by Fr. Randy & the Vestry  
Covenant Reading by Alexander

## **Additions to Agenda:**

**Minutes Review and Approval:** 19 September 2022 Vestry Minutes: Leslie made a motion to approve the minutes; Eric seconded the motion; unanimous approval.

**Pulse of Parish Presenters** for 23 October 2022, Chris for the 8:00 a.m. service & Ross for the 10:30 a.m. service.

## Vestry Team Liaison Reports:

**Finance: Pat /Tom:** The offerings for the month tend to be lower than budgeted. For the year, we are still ahead because people will front load the offerings. The offerings are not just the money. We also include things in the offerings, such as the solar rebate. It counts as once a month offering.

The building use, the budget are way ahead of budget. For this month, It may not look normal because of the State Fair parking payment. It makes this month look different compared to the other months. Overall for the building use, we are ahead of budget for the year.

For the expenses, the salaries & benefits are around \$17,000 lower this month than budgeted. It has been a lot of the year. The facilities are a little bit over budget due to heating expenses.

The highlights of the budget, if we start with the expenses, the things will change the most. We are expecting to spend more on salaries & benefits. It is mostly because of the 4% increase. The big change was the money we sent to the diocese was \$14,000 more than it was last year. That is because we had a big year compared to last year. The diocesan tax was based on pledges collection only. It is based on income from one or two years ago. On a calendar year, the income is averaged out.

Out of the offerings, the big change from last year, we budgeted \$ 10,000 of surplus. We didn't spend any of the \$10,000 of the surplus. For next year, we are budgeting nearly \$ 50,000 in

surplus. Currently, we have a very large surplus & will need to discuss spending down the reserves in the near future. The surplus can be so big. It might be three years worth. It makes good sense to spend some of it.

For the expenses, we are 75 % of the year at the end of September. The expenses are at 65% for the year & the income was at 78% of the year. It will be a great year for finances. The money from State Fair Parking was around \$ 7,0000. Part of the money, it will go to Fr. Toua & his family. They worked 8 hours a day during the evening shift.

We received the first half \$1,200 for the honorarium by participating in the Episcopal COVID Survey. It was placed under the COVID grant.

The Mary Hebert's bequest, it will be parceled out. We received two estates' gifts & one is still in action. There are certain percentages that go to certain funds if they are over \$20,000 in estate gifts. The monies have been allocated for buildings & grounds, repair & replacement, & technology systems. It leaves a number of \$16,929.76 The Finance Committee recommended putting it in the PIF (Pooled Investment Fund).

The motion is to approve the Finance Committee recommendation to put it in the PIF. Pat made the motion, Ross seconded the motion; unanimous approval.

Grant Request for Mission Opportunity Grant from Kathy Ackerman, We want to use it to take the new refugee family out to dinner, activities, such as the hayride, to concerts. It is a way for the Afghan family to have social opportunities or socialization in Minnesota. The funds will be carefully stewardly & used to pay the refugees' admissions to museums and zoos. The volunteers will be expected to pay their own expenses.

Pat made the motion to approve the Mission Opportunity Grant by Kathy Ackerman for the refugee family of \$ 500.00, second by Leslie; unanimous approval.

**Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild had a Fall meeting about 1 week ago. The set-up of the altar. Everything has changed since COVID. We have forgotten how to do things. We are working on customary things. Karen

**Buildings & Ground:** Jeff and Chris met with Andy Gieser of AMG Heating and Plumbing that serves churches thanks to Pat's recommendation. He was very thorough. He pointed out areas of concern, places where we might save money with heating, especially the choir room which tends to get like a sauna in winter. He asked about our fresh air intake. He recommended a couple of sound/fresh air intake to put in so it will reduce heating costs. He is very extremely honest & upfront for the bids. It was a very positive experience. We just need a contract to hire a company to help us out. All of the building ground projects are done. *Chris*

**Children's Ministries:** The hayride, at Bunker Hills Stables, will be this Saturday 22nd. *Eric*

**Communications:** Absent Madisen

**Community Dinner/Keystone:** Nothing to add. We are still waiting for the green light. *Ross*

**Faith Family Well Being:** Have not heard yet. If the team wants the Afghan family in the room & be seated together when they are doing a project. It has been a month since they arrived. We have not introduced them yet. So far, the family has not been at church.

If someone calls the office, can someone be the contact person to let the team want the person's needs? We are still working on the pipeline established. *Cheryl/Karen*

**Gardens:** For the year, 725 pounds (of produce) donated so far. They are still a little bit, but there is not too much left. We do clean-up & plan for next year. *Leslie*

**Green Team:** The video is up now. It will educate on recycling & composting on this campus. The Greens & the Garden teams are having a meeting together on Wednesday. Old video is from about 3 years ago. Now, we have a new video about a couple weeks ago.

The solar panels are working. The Solar Panels, we received good drone footage. We solved all of the problems. One problem is one steeple is blocking one of the solar panels. By removing the steeple, it will be too much work. The link will be on the website. *Alexander/Leslie*

**Hearts & Hands, Meals on Wheels:** Working on finding someone to take the lead on Hearts and Hands to take over for Sally. She wants to step down but continue leading Meals on Wheels.

This Thursday, plans are to help the nonprofit Second Stork organization for mothers. It is an external group. We support by putting diaper bags together for preemies, newly born babies, & mothers, who don't have money. The diaper bags are distributed throughout hospitals in the state. People get all of this equipment. They need people to assemble the diaper bags. It is done on Harriet Island, in St. Paul. A lot of the diapers are donated. *Chris*

**Kitchen, Funeral/Caterer / Special Gatherings:** Tabled for next meeting. *Ann*

**Stewardship:** Currently, we have approximately 31 pledges in & 2 new ones. We are little over \$119,000. One-third of what, we budgeted. We are currently on track. We still have a few weeks. Moving forward In November, the Vestry will write thank you notes to the parishioners given a pledge. We will have a form letter. It is very short & very sweet. A volunteer will have about 5 or 6 cards to write. Looking forward, the vestry will call people for who did not return a pledge. They do have a script. The phone calls will start in the first or second week of November. *Karen*

### **Unfinished Business:**

**Identifying Gifts, Skills & Passions survey:** Tom Linder organized the data and put it in an Excel spreadsheet and sent it out along with instructions. A person signed up for something related to the team that you are working on. Chris will resend Tom's email to Vestry. He asked that Vestry members liaisons to forward the information of people who are interested in a team.list to their

respective team leaders to take advantage of for involving folks with their teams. There will be a lot of familiar names. Chris

**Adult Forum: Faith Family Team Showcase:** We will start showcases for our various teams. We will start on 20 November. Chris will put together an Excel spreadsheet. The vestry liaisons will talk to their team leaders. The team leaders will pick three days. We go through December. We try to get everyone featured. It will help us to get people to be exposed to what is going on. Chris will help orchestrate scheduling with vestry members and their teams. If a team leader needs some help with the presentation, Chris will help them. The team leaders use the video monitor to show examples of their team's works via use of a laptop. It will help us in the future for people who are interested in each team. It will be in the Parish Hall. It didn't want to do th on Sunday before and after Thanksgiving since folks might not be in town. We will showcase two teams' endeavors presenting after both services. Vestry liaisons will need to work with their respective team leaders to schedule their presentations. The presentations will be at 9:00 am.m & around 11:30 a.m. We will try to line up similar teams, about two or three, for the same day. All

**Parish Photo Directory** WHEN? We need a Communications Team Leader Chair. Hopefully, we will one in a couple of months. It was tabled.

**Help with Celebrations of Life:** Absent Ann was going to check on caterers. Tabled it.

**Need for Lay Eucharistic Visitors:** We have several members already volunteering. They are: Jean Crow, Jennifer Wright, Peter Lee, & Millie Woodbury. We have been promoted in the bulletin & in the Traveler. Training will be coming up for them. We need to talk to Marilyn about Safe Church. Since the Lay Eucharistic Visitors will be going into people's houses, they will need Safe Church Training. The ECMN is reevaluating & formulating the Safe Church training. They are making it more accessible. A new one is coming out. Fr. Randy will find the date. Chris

**New Business:** October 30th Brunch for our Afghan Family: Becky & Karen talked about the menu. It will be after the last service for that day. The food for the brunch will be: pancakes, sweet breads, yogurt, granola, fruits, juice, coffee, & tea. It will be in the kitchen. Karen will be looking for volunteers. Karen will send a sign-up sheet online.

The family does not eat pork. Their meat has to be Haal. They do eat spicy foods. They drink tea. We can ask the Afghan family to bring a flat bread that they make. The bread is big. It will be nice for people to make some bread. The Brunch will be from 11:30 a.m to 1:00 p.m. It will be nice for Becky to introduce the family. Karen

**Coffee Service Sign up:** Currently, we are experiencing challenges for people to sign up. We need someone to take it on like the late Ebie Richards and call people. In the meantime, Chris asked Vestry members to take a Sunday and serve coffee. We can do the coffee service between the services. In addition, vestry can ask their respective team leaders to arrange for the teams to serve coffee. Chris.

**Rector Report:** ECMN Convention is the weekend of 28 - 29 October, in Rochester, MN. Fr. Randy will have another term on the Clergy Disciplinary Panel. The term is three years. It will be Fr. Randy's second term.

The ECMN, during the convention, they do accept resolutions. There are 3 resolutions that will be discussed & possible ratification, this year.

There are three resolutions:

- 1.) Recognizing Good Courage Farm as an Episcopal-Affiliated Organization.
- 2.) Resolution urging ECMN Faith Communities to pray for creation.
- 3.) St. Christopher's has a proposed resolution on the Reproductive Rights for everyone. Our own Chris Bowman gathered all of the approved & ratified General Convention's Resolutions & Minnesota State's Statutes together on reproductive rights, into one document.

On 23 October is crucifer training following the 10:30 service. Stewardship Sunday is the 30th. The brunch is on the 30th.

We are looking to be selected as a faith community within ECMN. As Faith Innovation, it is a program being rolled-out by ECMN by a select group of various faith communities. It will help churches to get more involved & to develop healthy spiritual practices to be used with this community. It will be extended to the greater community. The program will have a guiding team of 3 - 8 people. The members will be part of this community. It is a lay lead & clergy supported process. It will be some training. We will engage with other faith communities within our area. Hopefully, Rev. Blair, was at St. Matthew's in St. Paul, Mn, will be able to explain the project is & preach. Currently, she is the Canon for Vitality & Innovation, at the Bishops' office.

St. Christopher's is being approached to have a deacon come with us. The person hasn't been named yet. Fr. Randy still needs some additional final paperwork & things to be put together. Deacons are not stipend. Persons will help lead congregations especially for engaging on different aspects of the community. People getting involved on the outside vs. just showing up on Sundays. The person has a lot of professional experience outside the church & within church experiences. Fr. Randy

**Wardens' Remarks:**

Senior Warden: Annual Meeting is 22 January 2023. Vestry will ask to let the teams know that they need to write a report. Chris will send an email as a reminder. They will need their Annual Report copy to Ruth Thillen by January 17 at the latest. *Chris*

Junior Warden: Nothing to add. Karen

**Announcements/Shoutouts:** Thanks to Millie Woodbury noticed an error in the budget that went out in the stewardship packet. It has been corrected. Tom Linder organized the Identifying Gifts, Skills & Passions survey onto an Excel spreadsheet. Thanks to Becky Lucus for starting &

continuing the process for St. Christopher's to sponsor the Afghan family and continue to help them get settled. Thanks to Chris Bowland for his work on the Reproductive Rights Resolution.

Compline Reading led by Ross.

**Adjournment:** Motion made by Karen and seconded by Ross, unanimous approval. *Chris*

NEXT MEETING is 21 November 2022, 6:45 p.m.