

Vestry Minutes Sept 20, 2021
6:45 p.m. St. Christopher's Parish Hall (in person)
Note: masks will be required during the meeting

Present: Al, Michael, Josh, Pat, Ann, Fr. Randy, Tom, Alexander, Chris, Ross, Leslie, Erin, Allison (Clerk)

Absent: Jeanna

6:50pm Randy Opening Prayer: . . . as we look at the budget, dear Lord, we pray for wisdom, grace, and honor . . . Amen

6:50 Mike Reading of Vestry Covenant

6:55 Mike Review/Approval of August minutes: Al moves to approve August minutes; Ross seconds; Approved by voice vote. Pulse of Parish presenters (2): Chris at 8:00; Ann at 10:30.

7:00 Tom Financial review

For August, we are close to the hoped for amount on building use income, because the day care is coming back, and we have spiritual direction in the building.

Our offerings for the month look behind but that's because we have a lot of pre-paid pledges. If we look at the Year to Date, we are ahead of expected offerings.

On August expenditures, we've spent more than expected on administration and facilities, because of a new computer and monitor being needed, and paying for elevator repairs and three months' worth of building cleaning.

Next year, we will not have the \$36,000 PPP loan that helped our budget this year, and so Tom doesn't expect the surplus to continue.

7:10 Mike Approval of tentative budget proposal for 2022: Major differences are 1) Increase Rector's salary about \$20,000 to \$68,675 to account for Fr. Randy going from part-time to full-time. And the increase to Medical insurance from close to \$7,000 to \$21,000 would account for covering Fr. Randy and Kim, who have been covered by his state job. Placeholder amount of about \$7,000 for Youth Director

Al moved to approve to send out this tentative/preliminary budget with the Stewardship materials; Pat seconded. Approved by voice vote.

Phone system upgrade: summary and pre-approval of expenditure: need to update our antiquated system of internet wiring in building and new phone system

Phones have been dying, Ruth borrowing from different offices and from next door. Mike reading from Jeff's email, sent to him this evening; prior to making a replacement, need to replace and upgrade our network. Critical infrastructure piece for St. C's: Current DTS estimate comes in over \$8,000. We can wait for the complete estimates from Comcast, too, as well as DTS, but Mike concerned about waiting for another month.

DTS is local; would provide support. One downside is more than doubles monthly cost — currently, our monthly cost is low. DTS did respond right away, whereas Comcast has been slow to respond to Jeff Jensen. Mike is not comfortable with one quote.

Ann: Where does \$9,000 come from? Mike: Ruth proposes using part of \$30,000 that is currently waiting to be put in PIF, it's for bricks and mortar. She would suggest holding that \$9,000 back from PIF contribution this time. We are substantially ahead on capital campaign.

Pat: Is our Internet system separate? With new equipment, internet speed would be faster. Investing in business equipment is always wise, even the monthly increase in expense. You want something good, you have to pay for it.

Fr. Randy: Just because we can, doesn't mean we have to. Right now, a cobbled together system (cup and string); would be nice to have an integrated system that we can count on. Jeff does have the background and a former colleague liked the estimate.

Ross: Like the way that DTS responded, and if have one or two estimates to compare, that would be due diligence. We're running on baling wire.

Alexander: Seems like a good idea.

Motion: The Vestry proposes to pre-approve an expenditure up to \$9,000 to install an upgraded phone system and the wiring to support it.

Ann moves; Erin seconds; voice vote unanimous approval

Video camera purchase: Mike & Ross

Finance had presentations on improving recording for choir and a video camera for recording services. Ruth has purchased the video camera. Ross: will have to test before we go live, based on positioning and internet strength. Vestry does not have to approve a purchase under \$500. Camera costs about \$399. Leslie: Why was recording cancelled? Fr. Randy, way we were doing it was very labor intensive and complicated. At height of COVID, okay; but as transitioned, wanted to do research on different options. It is worth exploring as we go into fall and snowbirds leaving . . . not separately recording a service. Also not relying on just

one person doing it but be able to share the responsibility. Can run the camera off the phone or get a dedicated iPad so that it could be a team effort. Once the camera comes in, Ross will test on the wireless speeds, positioning, and so forth.

Cost will be covered by the \$5,000 COVID money from ECMN to upgrade technologies.

Brief Dellwood exploration team update — started monthly meetings. Al and team are establishing the background research they will need as they go forward.

7:45 Chris Stewardship update

Start-up Sunday chairs: Thank you!

People (Leadership: clergy and staff) 63.8%,

Programs (Christian ed, Children's ministries, Mission and ministries, parishwide, pastoral care, worship) 19.7%,

Places (Buildings and grounds, insurance, nonpersonnel admin)16.5%

Attitude for gratitude quotes in Christ-o-gram. Will ask Vestry to drop people a note for thanking them for pledging.

Speakers during October: Ann Dobron, Jeanna, Marcia, Jeff, Pete Lee

New Business

7:50 Mike Report on recording systems for choir, more advanced video recording: No report right now. Jeff is continues to look into audio systems, as was presented at Finance.

7:50 Randy Update and report: Wrestling with coming back inside. Heard Michael Osterholm today — schools are wrestling with kids not vaccinated, number of people refusing vaccination, Delta virus much more infectious and people carrying a larger viral load. Have to watch very carefully for the next month, right Leslie and Ann. Some talk about increases in outside exposure. Putting brakes on coffee hour between services and adult forum — longer time together and shielding and so forth to correct.

Mike wants to be conservative; a couple of parishioners want to go back to every other pew.

Services Wednesday noon 16 or so; 8 a.m. Sunday, 29; 10:30, mid-50s. Can seat about 200 in Sanctuary; singing with masks. Need to be nimble, especially with kids. Mike O. just need to vaccinate, rather than building doors for a submarine.

Leslie—do we want to have a lawn chair service outside? Also, a suggestion to commemorate this annually in June with an outdoor service.

Randy—if we stand outside in the winter, that’s what we do. Convinced that what we did kept us together.

Erin—Pfizer may be approved (emergency approval) for kids 5 to 11, by early November, which would be great.

End of month, Mary Rowe goes back to Utah. So glad she has been with us. Marilyn is a joy, too.

8:00 Vestry Liaison Reports: Alexander Green Team update, Sept. 8, first in-person meeting since COVID. Good attendance at meeting; planned the table for Start-up Sunday. Budget request for 2022, goals about climate change, Blue Zones, and other initiatives Oct. 13, 7 p.m., 2nd Wednesday of month; everyone is invited.

Buildings and grounds met Thursday, Mark B. took the group on a walkabout to see all the ins and outs, keeping up on boilers, furnaces, fridges. Jeff getting things documented for future. Oct. 14 work day for team.

Children’s ministry: back for Sunday School, kids are excited. Will continue to do Family Sundays, outside with mask, 4 p.m., First Sunday of month

8:05 All Shout outs for the fantastic Start-up Sunday! Everyone involved: Ann and all the teams. Double win: Kim and Pat and others invited into the fellowship of doing together.

Shout outs for the great State Fair parking lot contribution by so many; more than generating income for the church; able to work with people and getting better acquainted with each other.

Shout out: Ross and Jeff moving the videotaping project forward; lots of effort and it’s coming together. Hoping to involve more people.

8:10 Josh Compline

8:15 Adjournment

Next meeting of Vestry: Monday, Oct 18, 2021 6:45 pm
(in-person in Parish Hall)

Vestry Liaison Assignments

Pat	Finance
Jeanna	Recruitment, some communications
Ross	Communications
Josh	Music
Erin	Children's ministries
Al	Community Dinner/Keystone, and Archives
Leslie	Garden
Alexander	Green Team
Ann	Kitchen team, Funerals/Caterer
Allison	Web site, Communications (chair of team)