

Christ Episcopal Parish
The May Vestry Meeting
6:30 pm Christ Church Parish House
December 17, 2024

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Father Tim
Anne Scott (Senior Warden)
Jay Renner (Junior Warden)
Bill Hickman (Treasurer)
Emily Correll
Jeff Lin
Joe Richardson
Jeremy Snider
Jamie Alvarado Taylor

Emily Pearce (School Committee)
Monisha Swanson (Social Media Committee)

The Meeting started at 6:35 with an opening prayer and celebration of three new Christ Church families.

The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed and unanimously approved.

Prior to the meeting, Jaime submitted minutes of the November 24, 2024 vestry meeting for review by the vestry. Bill subsequently submitted suggested edits to the minutes, which have not been incorporated into a final version. The vestry voted unanimously to approve the minutes pending revisions necessary to address Bill's suggestions.

Monisha, together with Jeremy, researched several social media management companies to help us provide a more unified and purposeful social media presence. They recommend that the vestry consider the company Missio. Missio was represented by Andrew Spikes via a zoom call during the vestry meeting. Missio is a faith-based social media management company that works closely with churches of all sizes to create and manage a consistent social media presence to meet that individual church's needs and goals. The vestry asked Andrew several questions about the services that they provide, including the metrics that we would receive on the effectiveness of their work, and their expectation of in-person visits generated by online interactions. The company offers different levels of service at lower, middle, and upper price points. Having reviewed and compared the costs and the services offered, Jeremy and Monisha recommended we specifically consider the middle-price-point offering. In a straw vote the vestry approved Jeremy and Monisha to continue with the discussions with Missio to further develop the proposal for the vestry to approve.

To ensure that we have another vestry meeting prior to the Annual Meeting during which new vestry members are elected, the January meeting was moved one week earlier, to January 21, 2025. There will also be a Vestry orientation held on February 8, from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Regarding stewardship, Father Tim reported that 119 pledges have been received to date, with 34% of those pledges being increased over the amount pledged last year. He expects 56 more pledges to be received over the year in 2025, and is confident that we will meet our pledging goals.

Bill reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Several highlights include that the year-to-date revenue exceeded 1 million dollars, and 97% of budgeted pledged income to date has been received. Father Tim noted that discussions are needed with the provider of our sexton services to adjust and align the staffing schedules to more economically meet the increased activity and busier schedule of various groups using church facilities. The vestry unanimously approved the financial report. In discussing the 2025 budget, given new information that the leathering work for the organ could be deferred to a later year, the \$20,000 earmarked for organ repair can be redirected to the communications budget in anticipation of the engagement of Missio for social media management services. The vestry approved the revised 2025 budget, pending revision to reflect the reallocation of \$20,000 from organ repair to communications.

Jay gave a report for the property committee. Although no proposals are ready for vestry approval, Jay mentioned that we have received estimates for two options for the needed water cooler replacement for the HVAC system. Jay will align these options with the engineer that we have engaged to advise us on the expected 5 year planning and implementation of the modernization of the existing HVAC. Additional property issues are that an oven in the kitchen has failed and due to fire marshal findings, the choir pews need to be shortened to provide a wider aisle, with a 6 month deadline for mitigation. Fr. Tim posed the suggestion for later discussion that rather than shortening the pews, that they be removed and replaced with chairs, so as to provide more configurability of the space.

Emily Pearce submitted a report from the Head of School. The school is doing very well financially, with 105.8 FTE students enrolled relative to the 102 FTE students budgeted, with 5 mid-year applications in process for this year. The interest level in the next school year is also high. We have renewed the contract with the Head of School and anticipate continued success and even greater visibility of our great school.

Anne, for the Women's Circle, reported the wonderful success of "The Philadelphia Eleven" movie showing with the attendees' energetic engagement of the guest speaker, and two of our previous woman priests.

For the upcoming Annual Meeting, the vestry nominating committee nominated Anne Scott for Senior Warden. For the vestry, the committee nominates Jeff Lin, Mohit Matthew, and Jaqueline Aris. There is a remaining vestry vacancy for the 2-years

remaining in the term of Anne Scott upon her assumption of the role of Senior Warden. For Diocesan Delegate the committee nominates Gaye Maust. For the Diocesan Delegate Alternates, the committee nominates Wendy Sparks and Kendall Cummings. The vestry unanimously approved the slate as is.

There will be an opportunity to meet these candidates on January 19, 2025, and the Annual Meeting will be held the following week on January 26, 2025. There was a suggestion to hold the annual meeting in the nave rather than the Murdock room to encourage and accommodate more attendance by parishioners. The vestry voted to hold the annual meeting in the Murdock room as we did last year.

Several upcoming events were quickly reviewed. The 3rd Annual Scout Sunday with pancake breakfast will be on February 2, 2025. The vestry unanimously approved the dedication of the loose plate collection to Scout Troop 447 on this date. On May 18, 2025, The Rt. Rev. Gene V. Robinson, Retired Bishop of New Hampshire, will visit. Christ Church will have a presence at Rockville Pride at the Rockville Town Square on June 1, 2025 from 2 to 5pm. The Gay Men's Chorus of Washington will perform one of their concerts at Christ Church on June 14, 2025. Church offices will be closed from December 23, 2024 to January 3, 2025 while Fr. Tim is on vacation. Fr. John Weatherly will be celebrating the Eucharist on December 29, 2024. The Rev. Catherine Manhardt of St. James Church in Potomac will cover for pastoral emergencies.

After a closing prayer, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Meeting minutes as recorded by Jeff Lin, December 17, 2024