

**St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
September 21, 2021**

**Vestry Members Present**

Joe DeuPree, Senior Warden  
Michael Legacy, Junior Warden  
Andrew Besterman  
Kathy Carson  
Murray Followill via Zoom  
Randy Hering  
David Hess  
Lisa Pearson via Zoom  
Ruth Woodward via Zoom

**Staff Present**

Father Christopher Thomas, Rector

**Officers Present**

Paul McCright, Clerk  
Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor

**Absent**

**Guests**

**Summary**

These minutes contain the following Vestry actions:

- 1) Motion to transfer \$4166 from the Endowment Fund to Acct 5145 to pay for the stove, electrical work, and utensils.
- 2) Motion to set 2021 Parish Elections immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service on Oct. 31.

**Narrative**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER**

**Rector**

The Vestry meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. in the South Room by Fr. Christopher, who opened the meeting with a prayer. The following agenda was covered during the meeting.

## **2. RESOURCE PERSON FOR MEETING NAMED – Andrew Besterman**

### **3. SHARED THOUGHTS**

Each person had the opportunity to say anything that is on their mind. Members shared about sick friends and relatives and had praises for newborn relatives.

### **4. FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Treasurer**

< Financial Reports have been received prior to the meeting.

< A mis-written check was deposited in August and took some effort to clear up the amount with the bank. This led to a discussion about developing a process to handle this type of situation if discovered in the future. Consensus was that this rare event can be handled by contacting the donor to get a replacement.

< The Endowment Fund has been successfully moved to the Episcopal Foundation of Dallas.

< Members discussed giving the congregation a particular expected budget amount for 2022 and how we will get to that total combining pledges with other income. This would help to educate the parishioners about the true cost of operating the church and the need to make pledges. Growth in the pledged income is needed to move the parish forward.

Motion to approve the Financial Report for August.

Moved by David Hess

Seconded by Andrew Besterman

Motion passed unanimously.

### **5. RECTOR'S REPORT**

**Rector**

< The Stewardship Program will run from Sept. 26 through Oct. 17, when the Ingathering is scheduled.

< Projects come up that need to be moved into a permanent spot in the parish life, such as setting up the South Room for internet programming. Some organization within the Vestry would help in these situations. This is a topic for the Vestry Retreat next year.

< Fr. Christopher would like to bring Frances Shuster back to provide closure to our earlier retreats. We will look for a date in November.

< The process of opening and closing the building on Sundays was discussed. Previously, this was done by the counters each week. Other responsibilities need to be reviewed in regard to in-person services.

< The annual Blessing of the Animals will be held Sunday Oct. 3 at 4 pm in the North parking lot.

< All Saints Sunday is Nov. 7. We will have memorial names read in the Interior Garden during the service.

- < Christmas Eve will be celebrated with two services at 8 and 11 pm preceded by 30 minutes of music
- < There will be one service Christmas Day at 10 am. This will be a Lessons and Carols service.
- < The First Sunday of Christmas will have one service at 10:30 am.
- < On Oct 17 Bishop Sumner will be preaching.
- < Fr. Christopher met with the director of the Dallas Champions Academy to discuss their needs.

## **6. 2021 BUDGET EVALUATION**

**Michael Legacy**

- < The committee has discussed the costs associated with the new stove installation and is proposing for a transfer from the Endowment Fund of \$4166 to cover these expenses.

Motion to transfer \$4166 from the Endowment Fund to Acct 5145 to pay for the stove, electrical work, and utensils.

Moved by Michael Legacy

Seconded by Joe DeuPree

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

## **7. PARISH ELECTIONS**

**DeuPree**

- < Elections are coming up soon. We need to set a date. Members discussed Oct. 24 or Oct. 31 to allow those elected to attend the November and December meetings as observers.

Be it resolved, the Parish Bylaws and the Diocese of Dallas Canons require an election for Vestrypersons and Convention Delegates is to be held at an "Annual Parish Meeting." Because we are now having in-person physical Sunday services, the Vestry hereby calls for and sets a date for the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday October 31, 2021 at 11:45 AM in the Nave of St. Thomas the Apostle Church for an election for three (3) Vestry Persons for the 2022 Vestry; One (1) Committee Member for the St. Thomas Endowment Fund; One (1) Delegate for a three-year term and one (1) Alternate Delegate to the Diocesan Convention for a one-year term.

Motion to set 2021 Parish Elections immediately following the 10:30 a.m. service on Oct. 31.

Moved by Joe DeuPree

Seconded by Kathy Carson

Motion carried by unanimous vote.

The Vestry authorizes written notice to all members of the Parish eligible to vote at least 2 weeks prior to said election by email or surface mail to those members who do not

have e-mail. The written notice shall include notice of the date, time and place of the meeting and include the information pursuant to Canons and Bylaws that only confirmed members of at least 18 years of age who have contributed to financial support of the Parish for at least one year prior to the date of the meeting and who have taken communion at least 3 times in the last year and who are physically present at this Annual Parish Meeting will be eligible to vote.

Motion to authorize the sending of required notice to the membership.

Moved by Andrew Besterman

Seconded by Kathy Carson

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

< Joe noted that outgoing Vestry members usually serve as the nominating committee; however, Murray and David could run again since they are finishing partial terms so they should not be on the committee. Joe suggested all the Vestry members try to draw in good candidates. Members discussed the requirements that new Vestry members would be expected to meet. Joe and David will pull the information together.

## **8. JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

**Legacy**

< Parking lot trees have been trimmed.

< HVAC in the Parish Hall has a failing blower motor. A new blower will be installed tomorrow at a cost of about \$500.

< Back area has been trimmed except for a section of poison ivy, which Michael can do.

< The dumpster has been used by people from outside who are dumping materials into it. Michael will obtain a lock.

< Michael has not been able to get a company to come out to inspect our gutters.

## **9. STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

**DeuPree**

< Two letters including pledge cards have been sent to Church members.

< The kick off for the Campaign will be next Sunday.

< A third letter will be in the mail on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Oct.

## **10. SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

**DeuPree**

< The League of Women Voters has expressed an interest in resuming meetings here in the near future, probably in the North Room. An agreement and the safe church protocols will be required.

< Bi-Vocational Priesthood Candidate, Analise Moeser will be affiliating with St. Thomas soon. She is a member of Church of the Ascension and has a PhD in New Testament Studies. Several questions about Bi-Vocational Priests were asked. This designation means she is not following a traditional priestly track. She is going through a process of

the Diocese of Texas run through the Iona School. She will be working at another job and her priesthood will be an additional calling. We have been asked to allow her to do two semesters of field work here on liturgical training and pastoral care. She will be with us from October through May at no cost to the Parish. Several members expressed enthusiasm in this opportunity.

< Community Garden Discussion – Sr. Warden Joe DeuPree formed a small committee within the Vestry to consider the Chancellor’s recommendations and bring a proposal to the Vestry. Joe appointed Randy Hering, Rusty Rippamonti, Kathy Carson, and Murray Followill to serve on the Committee.

## **11. GUILD LIAISON REPORTS**

< Acolytes – David Hess – Currently have a minimum number of members active.

< Altar Guild – Murray Followill – Managing with a small number.

< Community Garden – Randy Hering – No report.

< Greeters/Ushers – Andrew Besterman – Has some new information for the members.

< Kitchen/Social – Randy Hering – Should have a reception for Bishop Sumner’s visit.

< LEMS – Lisa Pearson – Lisa has gone on some visitations and found they have been able to talk their way into nursing homes and could see people. She suggested that Analise might want to work with the LEMS.

< Mission/Outreach – Kathy Carson – Committee is taking on the Sunday reception. Amelia Roberts is heading up the scheduling of refreshments. The problem of mosquitos in the garden was mentioned.

< Readers – Ruth Woodward – No issues to report.

## **12. RESOURCE PERSON FOR OCTOBER MEETING – Randy Hering**

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m. with a blessing and a prayer from Fr. Christopher followed by the Lord’s Prayer.

The next meeting will be held on October 19 in person in the South Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Paul McCright*

Paul McCright, Clerk