

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2022

Rector

Father Christopher Thomas

Vestry Members Present

Stephen Toon, Senior Warden

Joe DeuPree, Junior Warden

Ruth Woodward

Randy Hering

Jerry Knight

Lisa Pearson

Kathy Carson

Alyssa Abadinsky

Michael Legacy

Deacon Jennifer Smith

Officers Present

Caroline Hofmann, Clerk

Wynne Voorhees, Treasurer

Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor

Absent

Wynne Voorhees, Treasurer

Laura Griffin, Controller

Summary

These minutes contain the following:

- 1) **Motion to approve August Vestry Minutes**
- 2) **Motion to approve the committee's recommendation to move to Realm Connect**
- 3) **Motion to hold Annual Meeting on October 30th, 2022**

Narrative

1. Call to Order

Rector

The vestry meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Fr. Christopher Thomas.

2. Resource Person

Hering

Resource person for this meeting is Randy Hering.

3. Reflection/Formation

Deacon

Deacon Jennifer Smith begins the meeting with an opening prayer and reflection on our baptismal covenant. Members present were prompted to think over moments when they had an opportunity to enact their baptismal covenant.

4. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Senior Warden

Prior meeting minutes approval for the month of August. Joe DeuPree notes a change on the third page to include Fr. Christopher's thanks to the Audit Committee.

Motion to approve August Vestry Minutes

Moved by Stephen Toon

Seconded by Kathy Carson

Motion approved by unanimous vote

5. Finance Committee

Senior Warden

Treasurer's Report

- a. Budget and finance committee met last week. They spoke about the Bank of America Issue. They have decided to look for other opportunities for where to take our money regarding removing it from the BOA account. Stephen poses the question of us moving the money or investing it.
- b. Stephen wants to have options back to the group by October.

Report of Finance Committee

- a. Committee met to discuss what platform we want to use and decided to go with Realm Connect.
- b. Rusty and Joe are working on getting money back from our steep water bill.
- c. Ruth noticed the pledges are up and wanted to know if we have an idea as to the reason. Vestry members believe it's due to some people catching up on their pledges.

Motion to approve the committee's recommendation to move to Realm Connect

Moved by Michael Legacy

Seconded by Joe DeuPree

Motion approved by unanimous vote

Set Date for Annual Meeting

- a. Fr. Christopher suggests October 30th and group agrees this is a good date
- b. Joe notes that we changed bylaws a few years ago to allow us to set the Annual meeting for a date after October 1st, but wonders what the Vestry thinks of this. Group agrees that the Annual meeting being open to all is beneficial.

Motion to hold Annual Meeting on October 30th, 2022

Moved by Alyssa Abadinsky

Seconded by Ruth Woodward

Motion approved by unanimous vote

Nomination Committee

- a. Rusty recommends that everyone know what is required of someone to make them eligible for Vestry. Ruth suggests we put those recommendations on the nomination form and group agrees with this suggestion.
- b. Rusty points out a discrepancy between Parish and Diocesan bylaws regarding what qualifies someone to vote.

6. Buildings & Grounds Committee

DeuPree

Water Bill

- a. A major leak has been discovered near the community garden. Though thousands of water went through the meter, there was very little standing water.
- b. The meter measured roughly 400,000 gallons of water so we are approaching the city to present the finding that our meter may be measuring incorrectly.
- c. If the city will check the meter and find that it is malfunctioning, the committee will attempt to get a reimbursement on our water bills.
- d. In Joe, Stephen, and Fr. Christopher's investigations, the plumber they consulted said that many people have miscalibrated meters and thus, incorrect water bills. Rusty also points out that there is a higher premium for water based on how many gallons you use (the more water we "use" the higher our premium is per gallon)
- e. Randy suggests having a double assurance via water monitor that we could compare to the meter.

Community Garden

- a. Someone pointed out that the growing season is going to a close so we may be able to close up the garden early.
- b. Ruth notes that we keep an eye out for anyone planting fall and winter vegetables, but from Rusty's survey it looks like most people only have flowers planted.

- c. Some members voice concern about closing the garden earlier than we originally said and believe we should honor our original date of EOY closing. Fr. Christopher suggests we send another letter reiterating the date that we will close the garden.
- d. Group agrees we include a notice that we will cut the water accordingly if a freeze is predicted.

Joe organized a very successful cleanup day of the parish and those who volunteered accomplished everything necessary.

7. Mission & Ministry Committee

Hering

Mission outreach met last week

- a. Dessert auction was a success and about \$1200 was raised. The group discussed needing someone to take photos at the next event.
- b. The group agreed there is a need for a survey of the congregation as to their interests and skills.
- c. Jennifer suggested creating volunteer activities associated with recruiting people to St. Thomas.
- d. Randy inquired about grant money for this year.
- e. Thanksgiving luncheon taking place on November 20th.

8. Guild Liaison Reports

- a. Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers - Michael Legacy
 - i. Michael is wrapping up Oct-Dec rotations. He is asking around if anyone wants to volunteer for crucifer or thurifer
- b. Eucharistic Visitors - Lisa Pearson
 - i. There is a need for eucharistic visitors, though we typically do not accept volunteers for jobs that require being send out until you've been a member for at least 6 months
- c. Altar Guild - Jerry Knight
 - i. No report
- d. Community Garden - Randy Hering
 - i. No report
- e. Greeters/Ushers - Alyssa Abadinsky
 - i. Greeters/Ushers are once again split into two groups. Joe suggests more training for those jobs
- f. Kitchen/Social - Randy Hering
 - i. No Report
- g. Lectors (Readers) - Ruth Woodward
 - i. No report

At the current moment, Michael Legacy is still selecting people to recite the prayers of the people.

9. Rector's Report

Rector

A letter went out from the Rector recently. In the coming weeks we will receive a letter from the wardens. Vestry members receive a letter from the Stewardship committee regarding pledging.

Recent Successes

- a. Homecoming was a success with over 60 attendees and nearly \$1200 raised.
- b. 9 people showed up this past Sunday for the lectionary Sunday and Deacon Smith led a wonderful conversation about the lectionary.
- c. There were 12 attendees at the book study last Wednesday and most stayed for the noon eucharist.
- d. 17 people are registered for the Anglicanism 101 Study beginning Wednesday Sep 21.
- e. Fr. Christopher would like to begin a program geared around greeting and integrating people into our congregation. *Invite Welcome Connect* was started here in Texas and has since been adopted in Episcopal churches across the nation. Select parishioners will be asked to read the book and assist in implementing its teachings at St. Thomas.

10. Resource Person for October - Ruth Woodward

11. Compline

Deacon Smith

12. Dismissal/Closing Prayer

Rector

The meeting is closed at 8:45 by Fr. Christopher.

Caroline Hofmann

Caroline Hofmann, Clerk