

The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
October 18, 2022  
South Room  
7:00 pm

**Rector**

The Rev. 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

**Officers Present**

Wynne Voorhees, Treasurer

Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor

**Guests**

The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Smith

**Absent**

Caroline Hofmann, Clerk

Laura Giffin, Controller

**Summary**

These minutes contain the following:

1. **Motion to approve September Vestry Minutes**
2. **Motion on banking resolution to open Fidelity Investors security account to be funded with \$100,000, the balance to be invested in FDRXX, the Fidelity Government Cash Reserves Fund, or a comparable money market mutual fund.**
3. **Motion on banking resolution to open account at Discover Bank with balance of \$34,120.09.**
4. **Motion to approve the Fuentes Guttering and Remodeling contract to rehabilitate all building guttering.**

## Narrative

1. Call to Order: Rector
  - a. The vestry meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm by Fr. Christopher Thomas
2. Resource Person for this Meeting: Ruth Woodward
3. Reflection/Formation: Deacon Jennifer Smith led the Vestry in Evening Prayer

### **Prior Meeting Minutes Approval: Motion to approve September Vestry Minutes**

Moved by Stephen Toon

Seconded by Kathy Carson

Motion approved by unanimous vote

4. Finance Committee: Senior Warden
  - a. Solution for Merrill Lynch account. Wynne Voorhees, Treasurer, made a presentation of the committee recommendations.
    - i. Recommend closing the account at Merrill Lynch and distribute to:
      1. Fidelity online savings account in the amount of \$100,000 – invest into Government Securities Money Market Mutual Fund
        - a. Currently yielding 0.63% YTD
      2. Savings account with an internet only bank such as Discover or Capital One in the amount of \$34,120.09
        - a. Discover has had better interest rate adjustments
      3. Question from Joe DeuPree: “We’ve always kept our funds in FDIC insured commercial banks. Where did the Merrill Lynch account come from?”
        - a. Response: In the rare instance we receive stock, we keep it available to accept that stock donation, which is why we want an account at Fidelity, but invest the underlying assets in something secure.
      4. Second question from Joe DeuPree: “Is this something we would monitor on an individual account style basis to move it around to maintain the investment?”
        - a. This is a “plug-and-play” type of investment. Largely risk free.
        - b. Will yield Money Market rates we get at the time.

### **Motion to put forth banking resolution to open Fidelity Investors security account to be funded with \$100,000 with the balance to be invested in FDRXX the Fidelity Government Cash Reserves Fund, or a comparable money market mutual fund.**

Moved by Lisa Pearson

Seconded by Jerry Knight

Motion approved by unanimous vote

**Motion to put forth banking resolution to open account at Discover Bank with balance of \$34,120.09.**

Moved by Lisa Pearson

Seconded by Jerry Knight

Motion approved by unanimous vote

- b. Stewardship Update:
    - i. Stewardship Chair Joe DeuPree announced that we are near the end of the active part of the “More Than Enough” Stewardship 2023 campaign. We have received 27 of 72 pledges so far, totaling \$144,600.
      - 1. Sunday, October 23 is Ingathering Sunday.
      - 2. The goal amount for the campaign is the budget amount for 2023.
  - c. Nominating Committee Update:
    - i. Nominating Committee Chair Joe DeuPree reported that the committee met several weeks ago and came up with potential candidates that they have approached, Three have agreed to run. A fourth is considering. One candidate is a relatively new member, and one has prior vestry experience. One is a long-time member who has never served on vestry, while one is a vestry alumni.
    - ii. Voting will be at the opening of Annual Meeting on October 30, 2022 immediately following the 10:30 am service.
  - d. Updates from Chancellor (See Attachments):
    - i. Question from Randy Hering: “How far back is t
    - ii. The city reviewing the water meter account for credit?”
      - 1. City policy is that they will only give us three months of adjustments. But we are a church and the meter was wrong. Chancellor Rippamonti is working to convince them to consider a longer period.
      - 2. Joe DeuPree suggested reaching out to our City Council Person
5. Building & Grounds Committee:
- a. Junior Warden’s Report – Attached
  - b. Gutters:
    - i. Two proposals submitted that are reasonable
      - 1. Work: Gutter guards installed, new gutters, gutter cleaning, and re-attaching all downspouts and connect to drains
      - 2. First proposal from Fuentes Gutters and Remodeling was preferred
      - 3. Second bid from Gutter Brothers
      - 4. Bids are within \$763
      - 5. Committee proposes contracting with Fuentes Guttering and Remodeling for a contract cost of \$6726.

**Motion to approve the Fuentes Guttering and Remodeling contract to rehabilitate all building guttering at \$6726.**

Moved by Joe DeuPree

Seconded by Michael Legacy

Motion approved by unanimous vote

6. Mission & Outreach Committee:

a. Randy Hering, Chair presented his report

i. Met last week

1. Discussed need for survey of the congregation to find out where the congregations' interests in volunteering lie. Deacon Jennifer and Randy working on that issue.
2. Cathedral of Hope group names from Ministry Fair need organization and set up.
  - a. Next Cathedral of Hope blessing bag assembly is January 14, 2023, potentially a good event to get the congregation involved and pique interest.
  - b. Mother Virginia has names of Ministry of Hope volunteers
3. Discussed toy drive for Christmas
  - a. Dates needed for the church calendar and into "The Doubter" to begin raising interest.
  - b. Community Partners of Dallas
  - c. Lee has dates and information for 50 children to be sponsored (Angel Tree).
4. Re-introduce the "Little Red Sock" campaign
5. Organize Ewing House collection
  - a. Tie it to Valentine's Day
  - b. Idea to add goodie bags to supplement meals
6. Outreach Grants
  - a. Is Mission/Outreach in charge of the disbursement of those grants? Yes!
  - b. We have the interest letter and grant application, but what date implications do we have?
    - i. We try to do it during the year, but we have in the past gone into the new year without disbursing.
  - c. The committee should feel free to streamline the grant process because it is not a large grant, and simplification of the application process will expedite the process for the applicant organizations.
  - d. Any ideas from Vestry may be submitted to the committee prior to their November meeting.
7. We also want to tie more events to the seasons and the calendar
  - a. Example: fitness event in January
  - b. Financial orientation in March
8. Reminder from Randy Hering as Chair of Kitchen/Social Committee of the Thanksgiving Luncheon the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving (November 20).
  - a. The Vestry usually provides the meat
  - b. Joe DeuPree recommended that we find someone to cook the turkeys, etc.

- c. Randy Hering will be out of town, so he will find another point person from his committee to organize this event.
7. Guild Liasons Reports
    - a. Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers: Michael Legacy, Nothing to report
    - b. Eucharistic Visitors: Lisa Pearson, Michael Legacy is working to find another EV to grow the group.
    - c. Altar Guild: Jerry Knight, Nothing to report
    - d. Community Garden: Randy Hering, Nothing more to report as the garden draws to a close at the end of 2022.
    - e. Greeters/Ushers: Alyssa Abadinsky, Working on scheduling an usher training, greeting overhaul in the works with "Invite/Welcome/Connect"
    - f. Kitchen/Social: Randy Hering, Thanksgiving potluck (See above)
    - g. Lectors: Ruth Woodward, Nothing to report
  8. Rector's Report
    - a. By way of statistics, over the last month, we have had 14 visitors to services at St. Thomas (excluding the large group of clergy invited for a special conference by Fr. Andy McCarthy.)
    - b. Transfers In & Out (Attached report)
      - i. What is the best way to welcome and incorporate new members?
    - c. Rigorous formation schedule this fall
      - i. Roughly 8-10 people participated in the weekly book study "Reaching Out"
      - ii. 6-9 people have been attending the Sunday morning Lectionary Study
      - iii. 17 on average in the "Basics of the Faith" class
        - 1. Will find out how many would like to be confirmed/received/reaffirmed.
    - d. Two main areas need energy and a "champion" to spearhead growth initiatives:
      - i. Process for staffing the nursery
      - ii. "Invite/Welcome/Connect" visitor/new member incorporation
  9. Committee of 2 on safety, security, and disaster preparedness, Ruth Woodward and Rusty Rippamonti, will be reporting to the Vestry in coming months.
  10. Resource Person for November meeting; Lisa Pearson
  11. Closing Prayer: Fr. Christopher Thomas
  12. Dismissal: Deacon Jennifer Smith

The meeting is closed at 8:20 pm by Fr. Christopher Thomas

Respectfully submitted by:

Alyssa Abadinsky

Vestryperson and acting Clerk for this meeting

