

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2022

Rector

Father Christopher Thomas

Vestry Members Present

Stephen Toon, Senior Warden

Joe DeuPree, Junior Warden

Janet Elsea

Ruth Woodward

Randy Hering

Jerry Knight

Lisa Pearson (via Zoom)

Kathy Carson (via Zoom)

Alyssa Abadinsky

Michael Legacy (via Zoom)

Deacon Jennifer Smith

John Van Buskirk

Officers Present

Caroline Hofmann, Clerk (via Zoom)

Wynne Voorhees, Treasurer

Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor

Absent

Laura Griffin, Controller

Summary

These minutes contain the following:

- 1. Motion to approve October Vestry Minutes**
- 2. Motion to approve Annual Meeting Minutes with the correction of Janet Elsea's name**
- 3. Motion to Move the December Vestry meeting from the 20th to the 13th**
- 4. Motion to use half of the Memorial Fund and half of the Capital Improvement fund to make building repairs (DENIED)**
- 5. Motion to transfer half of the needed balance out of the Memorial Fund (3060) to the Capital Improvement Fund (3050) to cover the costs for repairs made by Jose Fuentes**

Narrative

1. Call to Order

Rector

The vestry meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM by Fr. Christopher Thomas with a prayer.

**2. Resource Person
Pearson**

Resource person for this meeting is Lisa Pearson.

3. Reflection/Formation

Rector

Fr. Christopher opens reflection with a list of those requesting prayers for themselves or their loved ones. The group proceeds by speaking aloud the names of others who need prayers.

Deacon Jennifer calls for a moment of silent reflection and leads the group in the reading of a poem. The group reflects on their interpretation of coinherence, thankfulness

4. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Senior Warden

Prior meeting minutes approval for the month of October.

Motion to approve October Vestry Minutes

Moved by Joe DeuPree

Seconded by Ruth Woodward

Motion approved by unanimous vote

Motion to approve Annual Meeting Minutes with the correction of Janet Elsea's name

Moved by Joe DeuPree

Seconded by Jerry Knight

Motion approved by unanimous vote

5. Finance Committee

Senior Warden

Treasurer's Report

- a. Vestry members review the treasurer's report and the floor is opened for questions.

Report of Stewardship Committee

- a. The committee plans to make follow up calls regarding yearly pledges. At the current moment, we are at 70 pledges and anticipate a few more. Last year we had a final number of 72 pledges.

Report of Finance Committee

- a. Michael is meeting with Laura this week to go over the budget. There will be upcoming November and December meetings so that there will be a report for the December Vestry report.
- b. Their upcoming meetings will review this past year and what the plan will be for the upcoming year.

Stephen remind the group that a new December Vestry meeting date has been proposed.

Motion to Move the December Vestry meeting from the 20th to the 13th

Moved by Jerry Knight

Seconded by Joe DeuPree

Motion approved by unanimous vote

6. Buildings & Grounds Committee

DeuPree

Fr. Christopher thanks the committee for their work getting the gutters fixed and working.

- a. Joe reminds the group that a number of bids for repairs have been solicited and one bid has been selected to potentially go with.
 - i. The seals on many are deteriorating and will need to be replaced soon. A few interior doors need to be painted. In some areas drywall needs to be replaced as it is peeling. The nave wall needs to be power washed
 - ii. The repairs come out to roughly \$25k. There is about \$24k in our capital maintenance fund and Joe proposed we allocate that money towards repairs. We transfer out \$5,000 for repairs each year, and we have not yet transferred that amount this year.
 - iii. Joe mentions one risk

Motion to use half of the Memorial Fund and half of the Capital Improvement fund to make building repairs

Moved by Stephen Toon

Seconded Joe Deupree

Motion **denied** by unanimous vote

Motion to transfer half of the needed balance out of the Memorial Fund (3060) to the Capital Improvement Fund (3050) to cover the costs for repairs made by Jose Fuentes

Moved by Michael

Seconded by Joe DeuPree
Motion approved by unanimous vote

Ruth and Rusty speak on CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Training) and the prior threats sent to us by an individual who disagreed with our Black Lives Matter sign. Ruthie speaks on her recent experience with CERT.

- a. Ruthie suggested that we try and find people who would want to sign up and attend an AED/CPR class. We can add attendees at a later date but we need to first meet the minimum requirement to have the training.
- b. Ruth and Rusty will continue to explore this to know how St. Thomas can remain prepared for any emergency situations.

7. Mission & Ministry Committee

Hering

- a. Mission outreach are working focusing on Ewing House as far as external outreach goes, and they are working on more internal outreach as well.

8. Guild Liaison Reports

- a. Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers - Michael Legacy
 - i. Trying to get one or two more thurifers trained.
- b. Eucharistic Visitors - Lisa Pearson
 - i. Two participants were sick last week and thus unable to visit, so there is a need for more.
- c. Altar Guild - Jerry Knight
 - i. No report
- d. Community Garden - Randy Hering
 - i. No report
- e. Greeters/Ushers - Alyssa Abadinsky
 - i. Alyssa provides an update on smaller training sessions happening in early December.
- f. Kitchen/Social - Randy Hering
 - i. Thanksgiving feast is on Sunday, Mtr. Virginia is the event lead. Stephen notes that there will be turkey, but no ham this year.
- g. Lectors (Readers) - Ruth Woodward
 - i. No report

9. Rector's Report

Rector

- a. Some formal papers and certificates regarding Allen need to be reviewed. His ordination exams are in January.
 - i. Those online will need to come in person to sign before Allen is in town the week of Thanksgiving.
- b. Two months worth of water bills are included in Vestry information for the group's review.

- i. The bill has been lowered to a much more normal range thanks to the repair of our water meter and we have been reimbursed for some of the months that were logged incorrectly.
- c. New members were confirmed after the last Anglican 101 class.
- d. A new class will begin for advent relating to Christian nationalism.
- e. A Mardi Gras party will take place January 7th at Wynne's house for those who would like to join.

Fr. Christopher addresses church attendance and wants to discuss this challenge with the Vestry.

- a. The 10:30 service averages about 50 people, whereas we were averaging about 80 before the pandemic.
- b. The question posed is: How do we get people reengaged in church and post pandemic? The goal is to engage parishioners further, and encourage them to fulfill their baptismal covenant.
- c. Solutions suggested are:
 - i. Leadership modeling the changes they want to see
 - ii. Engaging people in activities so that they feel a sense of belonging and responsibility to attend.
 - iii. Checking in and promoting St. Thomas on social media

10. Resource Person for December - Jerry Knight

11. Compline

Rector

12. Dismissal/Closing Prayer

Rector

The meeting is closed with a prayer at 8:55 by Fr. Christopher.

Caroline Hofmann

Caroline Hofmann, Clerk