

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2023

PARTICIPANTS:

Rector

Father Christopher Thomas

Clergy, Staff and Guest

Deacon Jennifer Smith

Molly Wills Carnes

Vestry Members

John Van Buskirk, Senior Warden

Ruth Woodward, Junior Warden

Alyssa Abadinsky

Janet Elsea

Daniel Hall

Randy Hering

Jerry Knight

Lisa Pearson

Stephen Toon

Officers

Joe Deupree, Treasurer

Richard Elsea, Clerk

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN:

1. January Vestry Minutes were approved.
2. Vestry approved removing Endowment Fund information from the Income and Expense Reports going forward.
3. Vestry approved a supplemental banking resolution required by Inwood Bank.
4. Vestry approved the annual report known as the Parochial Report.
5. Annual Quickstart a/k/a Vestry Retreat is set for Friday, March 24, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, March 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and will likely include delaying the March Vestry meeting until then.
6. Ruth Woodward will inquire of parishioners about common transport to Allen Junek's expected ordination in Houston on June 24.

NARRATIVE:

1. Call to Order

Rector

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Fr. Christopher Thomas with a prayer.

2. Resource Person

Pearson

Resource Person for the meeting is Lisa Pearson.

3. Reflection/Formation

Deacon Jennifer

Deacon Jennifer opened the meeting with the poem *The Orchard* by Mary Oliver, and then facilitated the group contemplation and discussion.

4. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Senior Warden

Upon **motion by John Van Buskirk**, and **seconded by Ruth Woodward**, the Vestry **unanimously approved the January 17, 2023, meeting minutes**.

5. Invite Welcome Connect presentation

Guest Molly Wills Carnes

Episcopal evangelist, LGBTQ+ advocate and author, Molly Wills Carnes, shared her experience with Invite Welcome Connect, a uniquely Episcopalian evangelism model. Ms. Carnes was Connections Missioner at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Cypress, Texas, for three years, and her ministry is marked by deep empathy for those by wounded by their church experience.

6. Budget & Finance Committee, and Approvals

Treasurer

Committee Chair Joe Deupree presented the report, and two related motions were presented, discussed, and approved.

The first discussion was that including Endowment Fund information in the Income and Expense Statement presents an inaccurate financial picture. The Endowment Fund is an investment account, and gains and losses should only be recognized when they are actually realized (i.e. cashed in).

Upon **motion by Jerry Knight**, and **seconded by John Van Buskirk**, the Vestry **unanimously approved that the Endowment Fund will not be reflected in the Income and Expense Reports, beginning January 1, 2023, and going forward**.

The second discussion was that, in addition to the banking resolutions we provided, Inwood Bank uses its own banking resolution form, and upon **motion by Jerry Knight**, and **seconded by**

Janet Elsea, the Vestry **unanimously approved the Inwood Bank supplemental banking resolution** on the required banking resolution form of Inwood Bank.

7. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Junior Warden

Ruth Woodward presented her report. She also thanked Dan Hall for removing some tires abandoned on the grounds, and thanked Randy Hering for his in-kind donation of a new wet vacuum cleaner.

8. Mission & Ministry Committee

Toon/Hering

Committee Chair Stephen Toon submitted the report, and Randy Hering spoke about Ewing House, its immediate need for many more resident meals, and what the parish can do to provide meals. Stephen also discussed PRIDE events, and he is the liason for coordinating PRIDE participation with Cathedral of Hope.

9. Guild Liaison Reports

- a. Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers – Stephen Toon (No Report)
- b. Eucharistic Visitors – Lisa Pearson (No Report)
- c. Altar Guild – Jerry Knight (No Report)
- d. Greeters/Ushers – Alyssa Abadinsky (No Report)
- e. Kitchen/Social – Randy Hering (Ewing House discussion)
- f. Lectors (Readers) – Ruth Woodward (No Report)

10. Rector's Report

Rector

Fr. Christopher presented the Parish's 2022 Report of Episcopal Congregations and Missions According to Canons 1.6, 1.7, and 1.17 (Otherwise Known As The Parochial Report) for discussion.

Upon **motion by John Van Buskirk**, and **seconded by Stephen Toon**, the Vestry **unanimously approved the 2022 Parochial Report of St. Thomas the Apostle**, which was then certified by the signatures of the Clerk, the Treasurer, and the Rector.

The Annual Quickstart a/k/a the Vestry Retreat is set for Friday, March 24, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, March 25, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and will likely include delaying the March Vestry meeting until then.

Ruth Woodward graciously volunteered to inquire of parishioners about common transport to Allen Juneck's expected Diaconal Ordination in Houston on June 24.

Stephen Toon inquired about obtaining a list of prayer request recipients to be able to send cards to those currently incarcerated.

11. Dismissal/Closing Prayer

Rector

The meeting was closed with a prayer at 9:00 p.m. by Fr. Christopher.

Next Vestry Meeting is currently scheduled for March 21, 2023, but may be included as part of the March 24-25 Annual Quickstart, and the Resource Person for that meeting is Alyssa Abadinsky.

Richard Elsea, Clerk