

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2023

PARTICIPANTS:

Rector

Father Christopher Thomas

Clergy, Staff/Guest

Deacon Jennifer Smith

Dr. Joseph Henry, New Organist and Music Director

Vestry Members

John Van Buskirk, Senior Warden

Ruth Woodward, Junior Warden

Alyssa Abadinsky

Janet Elsea

Dan Hall

Jerry Knight

Lisa Pearson

Stephen Toon

Officers

Joe DeuPree, Treasurer

Richard Elsea, Clerk

Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor (via Zoom)

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

1. **May Vestry Minutes were approved.**
2. **Vestry approved four (4) resolutions: 1) to pay the Music Director a salary of \$25,000 per annum; 2) to waive bond for the executor of Bill Leazer's estate, of which St. Thomas is a beneficiary; 3) to authorize payment of \$6,500 for tree pruning; and 4) to authorize repayment to the church's property insurer of funds received but not used when we decided not to replace the roof.**
3. **Vestry recognized previously acknowledging Lee Corbin's retirement with a Resolution as of June 1, 2023, which was presented to Lee on June 18, 2023, and is entered into these minutes.**

NARRATIVE:

1. Call to Order

Rector

Due to widespread traffic delays impacting several members, the meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. by Fr. Christopher Thomas with a prayer.

2. Resource Person

Toon

Resource Person for the meeting is Stephen Toon.

3. Reflection/Formation

None

Due to the delayed start and the substantial agenda, the reflection period was eliminated.

4. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Toon

Upon **motion by Stephen Toon**, and **seconded by Jerry Knight**, the Vestry **unanimously approved the May 16 meeting minutes** as presented.

5. Chancellor Update

Rippamonti

The St. Thomas alcohol at funerals policy was presented for discussion, including a waiver of liability for serving alcohol at church functions, in conformity with existing Dallas Diocesan policy. Fr. Christopher suggested that any alcohol policy be for all church functions (not just funerals), and the matter was tabled for later discussion.

The resolution recognizing Lee Corbin's 38 years of service, and its presentation to him last Sunday, were officially entered into these June Vestry Meeting minutes.

Bill Leazer's generous bequest to St. Thomas was presented and the Vestry determined to waive bond for Gene Ringuette, spouse of Bill's niece, to be appointed executor of Bill's estate. Upon **motion by Ruth Woodward**, and **seconded by Lisa Pearson**, the Vestry **unanimously approved Senior Warden John Van Buskirk's execution of the Waiver of Bond for Appointment of Gene Sidney Ringuette as Executor of the Estate of William Leazer, Deceased.**

After Dr. Joseph Henry was introduced to the Vestry and then signed off of Zoom, upon **motion by John Van Buskirk**, and **seconded by Janet Elsea**, the Vestry **unanimously approved increasing the annual salary of the Director of Music position to \$25,000 starting July 1, 2023.**

6. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Junior Warden

Ruth Woodward presented the report, including a discussion of having initially received property insurance proceeds to replace a roof that was deemed by a contractor to be damaged beyond repair, but which, upon further inspection of both the roof and the contractor's ethics,

was found to not need replacement. Upon **motion by Ruth Woodward**, and **seconded by Dan Hall**, the Vestry **unanimously approved returning the unapplied funds to the church's property insurer.**

Discussion by the Safety and Security Committee of locking entrance doors after a service begins was tabled for refinement.

The need to prune seven trees along Inwood was discussed. Thereafter, upon **motion by Dan Hall**, and **seconded by Stephen Toon**, the Vestry **unanimously approved the expenditure of \$6,500 to Tree Tech by the Building & Grounds Committee from the Memorial Fund, #3060, for pruning trees.**

7. Budget & Finance Committee, and Approvals

Treasurer

Committee Chair Joe DeuPree presented the reports, and they were discussed. Attached reports include the June 13, 2023, Budget and Finance Committee Report, the Balance Sheet as of 05/31/23, and the Current Month vs. YTD Budget. It was suggested that a motion be made to have the financial reports properly characterize any net operating losses, with further discussion tabled until next meeting.

8. Mission & Ministry Committee

Toon

Committee Chair Stephen Toon submitted the report, which includes brief updates on six projects/efforts: PRIDE at Fair Park, Ewing House, Pillowcase Project, Birthday Card Project, Back to School supplies collection, and Outreach Cards.

9. Guild Liaison Reports

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

10. Rector's Report

Rector

Fr. Christopher presented his report, including leading the discussion of Chapter 2 of Molly Wills Carnes' book, Invite Welcome Connect; introducing Dr. Henry as our new Music Director and Organist; providing dates for our Fall Kickoff (on September 10), Stewardship Ingathering (October 22), Annual Meeting (Elections – October 29), and Basics of Faith class (September 13). Fr. Christopher also advised that both vestments are quite worn and in dire need of replacement, with the replacement cost being approximately \$5,000 each. He also reminded of his upcoming vacation, July 11 to July 15.

11. Dismissal/Closing Prayer

Rector

The meeting was closed with prayer at 9:05 p.m. by Fr. Christopher.

Next Vestry Meeting is July 18, 2023, and the Resource Person will be Jerry Knight.

Richard Elsea, Clerk