

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
August 15, 2023

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**Rector**

Father Christopher Thomas

**Clergy, Staff/Guest**

Deacon Jennifer Smith

Shelley Turner

**Vestry Members**

John Van Buskirk, Senior Warden

Ruth Woodward, Junior Warden

Alyssa Abadinsky

Janet Elsea

Dan Hall

Randy Hering

Jerry Knight

Lisa Pearson

Stephen Toon

**Officers**

Joe DeuPree, Treasurer

Richard Elsea, Clerk

Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:**

1. July Vestry Minutes were approved.
2. Vestry approved two (2) additional resolutions: 1) to accept the Audit Committee's findings and recommendations as presented; and 2) authorizing the Sr. Warden to execute a beneficiary distribution form for a distribution from Bill Leazer's Estate.
3. Stephen Toon resigned from the Vestry, effective December 31, 2023. A new Vestry member will be needed for the final year of his scheduled term (2022-2024).

**NARRATIVE:**

**1. Call to Order**

**Rector**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 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 Smith opened the meeting with the poem entitled *Thirst* by Mary Oliver and then facilitated the group contemplation and discussion.

## 4. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Senior Warden

Upon **motion by Lisa Pearson**, and **seconded by Alyssa Abadinsky**, the Vestry **unanimously approved the July 18, 2023, meeting minutes.**

## 5. Budget & Finance Committee, and Approvals

Treasurer

Shelley Turner, Chair and Member of the Audit Committee, presented and commented on the Committee's Findings and Recommendations, as set forth in the written report. Shelley praised the significant efforts of the team: Inspection Review Members Andrew Besterman, Hampton Burwick, Alberto Galue, and Jerry Knight. Laura Griffen and Lee Swift were also recognized for their efforts in pulling together substantial amounts of information needed by the Committee. In addition to the Audit Committee report with attached schedules, written reports include the Budget and Finance Committee Report, the Balance Sheet as of 07/31/23, the Current Month vs. YTD Budget as of 07/31/23, the Mid-year Budget Adjustments report (08/2023), and the Episcopal Foundation statement for July.

Upon **motion by Randy Hering**, and **seconded by Ruth Woodward**, the Vestry **unanimously approved "accepting the findings and recommendations of the Audit Committee, as presented, and with great appreciation for the generous donation of their time and talent in performing the audit."** Again, those dedicated volunteers and staff are:

Shelley Turner, Andrew Besterman, Hampton Burwick, Alberto Galue,  
Jerry Knight, Laura Griffen and Lee Swift

## 6. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Junior Warden

Ruth Woodward presented the report, adding that one air conditioner unit's motor was replaced. Included in the report was a detailed safety and security assessment. Included in the safety and security discussion that followed was a substantial discussion about seeking a grant for the cost of replacing the two aluminum exterior doors leading into the courtyard, and the amount of such request (\$15,506 by one estimate). Additional information will allow making application for the exact amount to be requested.

## **7. Mission & Ministry Committee**

**Toon**

Committee Chair Stephen Toon presented the report in the form of his detailed Mission & Ministry Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2023. Stephen also announced that, regrettably, he must step away from his Vestry position, but he will continue through the remainder of 2023. He will be sorely missed.

## **8. 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 (No Report)
- f. Lectors (Readers) – Ruth Woodward (No Report)

## **9. Rector's Report**

**Rector**

Fr. Christopher presented his report, including discussion of his July 26, 2023, letter regarding the issue of safety and security as anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment becomes more prevalent in segments of our community. A discussion of Chapters 4 and 5 of *Invite Welcome Connect* followed, and Fr. Christopher sought input into possibly engaging Molly Wills Carnes in a paid capacity to assess St. Thomas's progress and potential path forward to full implementation of the *Invite Welcome Connect* principles. Also addressed were: the Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections on October 29, including replacing Stephen Toon for 2024; our Fall Kickoff and Pot Luck on September 10; the Basics of Faith class beginning on Wednesday, September 13; the Pet Blessing on October 8 at 3:00 pm; the Annual Meeting/Elections on October 29; and the Christmas Schedule (Advent IV/Christmas Eve/Christmas Day) being put to the Parish.

## **10. Dismissal/Closing Prayer**

**Rector**

The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:57 p.m. by Fr. Christopher.

Next Vestry Meeting is September 19, 2023, and the Resource Person will Alyssa Abadinsky.

**Richard Elsea, Clerk**