

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2023

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**Rector**

Father Christopher Thomas

**Clergy, Staff/Guest**

Deacon Jennifer Smith

**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**

Richard Elsea, Clerk

Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor

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

1. **August Vestry Minutes were approved.**
2. **Vestry approved three (3) additional resolutions: 1) to adopt the proposed Alcoholic Beverages Policy; 2) to adopt the proposed Amendment to the Funeral Policy (regarding serving alcohol); and 3) authorizing expenditure of \$15,000 from the Endowment Fund to replace the three sets of parish hall entrance/exit doors.**
3. **Randy Hering elected not to continue as Kitchen/Social Committee Chair for another year, with his departure effective December 31, 2023.**
4. **Richard Elsea elected not to continue as Clerk for another year, with his departure effective December, 31, 2023.**

**NARRATIVE:**

**1. Call to Order**

**Rector**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Fr. Christopher Thomas with a prayer.

## 2. Resource Person

Abadinsky

Resource Person for the meeting is Alyssa Abadinsky.

## 3. Reflection/Formation

Deacon Jennifer

Deacon Jennifer Smith opened the meeting with the poem entitled *Honey Locust* 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 Ruth Woodward**, the Vestry **unanimously approved the August 15, 2023, meeting minutes.**

## 5. Budget & Finance Committee

Written reports include the Budget and Finance Committee Report, the Balance Sheet as of 08/31/23, and the Current Month vs. YTD Budget as of 08/31/23.

## 6. Report from Chancellor (Alcohol Policy Update)

Rippamonti

Rusty Rippamonti prepared and presented a draft Alcoholic Beverages Policy for St. Thomas the Apostle, as well as a draft Amendment to Funeral Policy for St. Thomas the Apostle. The Alcoholic Beverages Policy sets forth this Parish's requirements and guidelines under which alcoholic beverages may be served free of charge during certain Parish sponsored functions that are open to the entire Parish. The Policy also covers certain non-sponsored/private events and the additional requirements therefor, including among other things, that the event host use only TABC licensed server(s) and have liability insurance. Upon **motion by Alyssa Abadinsky**, and **seconded by Lisa Pearson**, the Vestry **unanimously approved adoption of the proposed Alcoholic Beverages Policy for St. Thomas the Apostle.**

The Amendment to Funeral Policy provides that the above requirements and conditions apply if, in the Rector's discretion, serving alcohol is allowed at a funeral. Upon **motion by Janet Elsea**, and **seconded by Stephen Toon**, the Vestry **unanimously approved adoption of the proposed Amendment to Funeral Policy for St. Thomas the Apostle.**

## 7. Stewardship Committee Update

Senior Warden

John Van Buskirk reported that letters with pledge cards went out today to the entire Parish. The members of the Stewardship Committee are:

Kathy Carson, Joe DeuPree, Randy Hering, Rusty Rippamonti, Linda Van Buskirk and John Van Buskirk

Stewardship minutes will be presented during the services on October 1st, 8th and 15th, with pledge cards brought to the altar during the October 22nd services.

## 8. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Junior Warden

Ruth Woodward presented the report, elaborating on the AED/CPR volunteer training scheduled for the morning of October 7, 2010, and the need for ten (10) volunteers for the training. Other items included Dr. Joe Henry pursuing issues with the organ's software, all of which appear to be under warranty. Included in the report was the continuing safety and security discussion, including the hiring of Bullit Police Services to provide a uniformed police officer for security on Sunday mornings from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm. Included in the safety and security discussion was evaluation of a bid from Star Glass & Aluminum for \$15,000 to replace all three sets for doors. Upon **motion by Lisa Pearson**, and **seconded by Dan Hall**, the Vestry **unanimously approved "funding to replace 3 Parish Hall doors, in the amount of \$15,000 from a distribution from the Endowment Fund."**

## 9. Mission & Ministry Committee

Toon

Stephen Toon presented the report in the form of his detailed Mission & Ministry Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2023. Highlights are Ewing House personal hygiene items collection, yearly outreach grants, blessing bags at CoH on Saturday, October 14, Christmas toy drive, Thanksgiving potluck (Vestry provides entrée), and \$50 gift cards for Christmas for Ewing House residents (they have periodic group outings to Walmart, etc.).

## 10. Guild Liaison Reports

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

## 11. Rector's Report

Rector

Fr. Christopher presented his report, including discussion of Chapters 6 and 7 of *Invite Welcome Connect*. He confirmed the engagement Molly Wills Carnes in a paid capacity to assist in Thomas's implementation of the *Invite Welcome Connect* principles. Also addressed were: the Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections on October 29; Dr. Henry's organ recital at 3:00 pm on the same day; (?) thoughts for Black History Month events; (?) need for a children's ministry/hour; Dr. Stephen Sprinkle will teach four (4) classes, beginning Dec. 3rd and continuing each Wednesday in Advent; and, the Christmas schedule is the **Sunday, December 24th** services are **at 10:30 am and 7:30 pm**, and the sole **Christmas Day service is Monday, December 25, at 10:00 am.**

**12. Dismissal/Closing Prayer**

**Rector**

The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:35 p.m. by Fr. Christopher.

Next Vestry Meeting is October 17, 2023, and the Resource Person will be Janet Elsea.

**Richard Elsea, Clerk**