

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

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**Rector**

Father Christopher Thomas

**Clergy, Staff/Guest**

None

**Vestry Members**

Ruth Woodward, Junior Warden

Alyssa Abadinsky

Janet Elsea

Jerry Knight

Lisa Pearson

Stephen Toon

**Officers**

Joe DeuPree, Treasurer

Richard Elsea, Clerk

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

1. **October Vestry Minutes were approved.**
2. **Vestry approved one additional resolution, authorizing the recommended Outreach grants to: March to the Polls (\$1,000); CoH Blessing Bag Ministry (\$1,000); Inspired Vision Compassion Ctr (\$2,000); and Elevate North Texas (\$1,000).**
3. **Vestry approved by consensus holding the next Annual Meeting on February 4, 2024.**

**NARRATIVE:**

**1. Call to Order**

**Rector**

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

**2. Resource Person**

**Woodward**

Resource Person for the meeting is Ruth Woodward.

### 3. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Junior Warden

Upon **motion by Ruth Woodward**, and **seconded by Janet Elsea**, the Vestry **unanimously approved the October 17, 2023, meeting minutes.**

### 4. Budget & Finance Committee

Treasurer

Joe DeuPree presented the Budget and Finance Committee Report, and the attached Balance Sheet as of Oct. 31, 2023, Income Statement for Oct. 1st to Oct. 31st, 2023, and Special Funds Statement for the same October period. He noted that Year-To-Date receipts, excluding remaining pledge amounts, have the Parish operating in the black so far YTD.

### 5. Stewardship Committee Update

Treasurer

Joe also presented 2024 Stewardship Progress and Pledge Status reports, noting that the average pledge amounts shown for 2023 and 2024 should be “flipped,” as the average 2024 pledge amount is \$4,785 and the 2023 average pledge was \$4,170. While the average pledge amount increased, even including the 7 new pledging units, the total number of pledgers decreased by 11, from 78 to 67 (14%). Also, 33 of the pledging units (49%) did not increase their pledges over 2023. Nevertheless, the 2024 Stewardship campaign is on track, and we are hopeful of fully funding our 2024 budget without any contribution from endowment funds.

### 6. Buildings & Grounds Committee

Junior Warden

Ruth Woodward presented the report. The two major outstanding items, installation of the new Parish Hall doors and tree trimming project, have been completed. The report noted the Committee’s accomplished, in-progress, and to-do items, and confirmed Ball Security’s assignment for the Christmas weekend services.

### 7. Mission & Ministry Committee

Toon

Stephen Toon presented the report, focusing on the 2023 outreach grants, the grant process and the applicants, and the Committee’s recommendations. The report includes the applicants’ submission materials, and the Committee’s recommendation to approve grants to: 1) \$1,000 to March to the Polls; 2) \$1,000 to the Cathedral of Hope, Blessing Bag Ministry; 3) \$1,000 to Elevate North Texas; and 4) \$2,000 to Inspired Vision Compassion Center. Upon **motion by Stephen Toon**, and **seconded by Lisa Pearson**, the Vestry **unanimously approved disbursing grants to the following four recipients: 1) \$1,000 – March to the Polls; 2) \$1,000 – Cathedral of Hope, Blessing Bag Ministry; 3) \$1,000 – Elevate North Texas; and 4) \$2,000 – Inspired Vision Compassion Center.**

### 8. Guild Liaison Reports

- a. Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers – Stephen Toon (No Report)

- b. Eucharistic Visitors – Lisa Pearson (Brief Report – pressing need for more participants)
- c. Altar Guild – Jerry Knight (No Report)
- d. Greeters/Ushers – Alyssa Abadinsky (No Report)
- e. Kitchen/Social – No Report
- f. Lectors (Readers) – Ruth Woodward (Brief Report – Randy Lacy has the updated list thru April)

## 9. Rector's Report

Rector

Fr. Christopher presented his report. Of note, Dr. Stephen Sprinkle will teach a four (4) class course, beginning Wednesday, November 29, at 7:00 p.m. and continuing each Wednesday in Advent (previous minutes incorrectly identified the first Wednesday as Dec. 3, rather than Nov. 29). The course title is *Couples at the Margins of Church and Society: What Same-Gender Loving Saints Have to Teach Us About Religion, Identity, and Humanity*. Molly Wills Carnes will visit our December 3rd service(s) and prepare her initial assessment/plan for implementing *Invite Welcome Connect*. The Vestry approved by consensus holding the next Annual Meeting (for all business except Vestry Elections) on February 4, 2024. Fr. Christopher reiterated the Christmas schedule: **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**.

## 10. Dismissal/Closing Prayer

Rector

The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:00 p.m. by Fr. Christopher.

Next Vestry Meeting is December 19, 2023, and the Resource Person will be Janet Elsea.

**Richard Elsea, Clerk**