

CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTIANA HUNDRED

Vestry Minutes

April 11, 2024

7:00 PM

Present: Louise Barton, Ruth Beresford, Audrey Bruce, Michael Flynn, Sherri Howell, Ted Ledden, Alexander Maynard, Scott Nickle, Eliza Phillips, Mike Rushlow, Suzanne Smith, Jaq Whalen, Alexia Wolf

Absent: Chuck Arensberg, Bart Reese

The meeting was called to order by the rector at 7:01 PM, and she offered the opening prayer.

Leadership and Governance

Strategic Plan Review in Preparation for the Next Steps Strategy Session: Ruth noted that the Vestry's Next Steps Strategy Session on May 9 with Ministry Architects (MA), the Renovation Team, and the Strategic Planning Team will take the place of the normal Vestry meeting. MA will conclude their work with us in October, and we will be discussing how to continue fulfilling our strategic plan without their assistance. She then led a review of the entire plan to remind us of what we agreed we were called to do, where we set our benchmarks, our accomplishments so far, and steps we have yet to complete. Ministry Architects remarked that we generated a longer list of goals for the first year than the other parishes with which they have worked. Of note, goals related to CCEP were set before we knew we would be searching for a new Head of School. Jaq expressed a wish to know more details about the status of tasks that are in process and what is planned next, and Ruth reiterated the need for the Renovation Team to send their monthly report to the Vestry. Alexia will take that feedback to the team.

2024 Green Show Preparations: Ruth met this week with Nancy Greenberg, who is leading the Green Show again this year. The dates are December 6 and 7, as late as the event can be. Nancy will hold a meeting on April 28 for those involved in or interested in leadership. There will be a Christmas in July event again this year. Department leaders will be engaging with people at that time and after worship services and at the Parish Picnic to ask them directly to volunteer. The need for succession planning for long-time volunteers was noted. Ruth asked that Vestry keep in mind that the decision to reduce the Outreach contribution from the operating budget means that it is even more crucial that Green Show be a very successful fundraiser.

May 19 – Pentecost and Annual Meeting: Saturday 5 PM and Sunday 8 AM services will take place as usual that weekend. The one Sunday 9 AM service in the church will feature Baptism (including some CCEP children) and welcoming of new members. All Vestry should plan to be present at the annual meeting that follows the 9 AM service and encourage others to come. Catering of the lunch still needs to be pinned down. The 10-year service anniversary for sextons Andy Marine and Charles Parfitt-Simpson will be recognized, along with Cal Wick's retirement as Pastoral Associate. Vestry nominations were announced in today's eNEWS: there are six candidates standing for election. Voting by paper ballot will take place at all services on the weekends of May 5 and 12. Voting online is available now.

A new Belong class series starts next week, the second one for the year. Ruth again encouraged Vestry to come to Coffee & Community at 9:30 AM on Sundays to meet and get to know new young families. May 5 is Point to Point, and we avoid planning parish events that day. On May 12, we will be recognizing Choristers at the 9 AM ARK service, and the Rite-13 liturgy will take place at the 10:30 AM service. Evensong that day will have a focus on Mother's Day.

State of the Parish

Rector's Report: Ruth shared the historical comparison of Holy Week worship attendance. There was a discrepancy in the attendance count at the 11 AM service this year, whether it was around 300 or 400. Ruth noted that the early date of Easter, potentially overlapping with school breaks, does traditionally affect attendance negatively. Much of her work lately has been pastoral in nature. There were two deaths in the parish this week, with funerals to be held later this month. She remarked that interior painting is underway in the parish hall, and we still have a leak in the ceiling in Parish Hall B that we cannot trace.

CCEP Update: Louise reported that all is going well in the preschool. Summer enrollment is looking smaller. Denise has continued to be a stalwart professional through the transition, and Louise commended her for that. Preparations for the Gala are underway. Two faculty members are retiring. Financially, the school is tracking ahead of budget; Denise has been careful about costs. We already have \$30K in sponsors for the Gala and are working on deciding what projects to use the funds for. We are close to officially receiving a grant from the state for quality improvement, 50% of which will go to teacher bonuses and 50% for repairs to facilities and play equipment. The Trustees are looking forward to the Meet-n-Greet with incoming Head of School Sheila Abio and her husband on April 19.

Finance Committee Update: The March financial results and commentary from Terri Carpe were shared with the Vestry in advance. Ted noted that there were no new developments to report.

Monthly Management Tasks

Approval of Minutes: March's meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Other Concerns and For the Record/Communication and Gratitude: Easter services were generally recognized by all as fabulous. Ruth will attend next week's Outreach Committee meeting (April 16) to discuss the budgetary changes; Eliza indicated that she would attend also.

The closing prayer was offered by Audrey. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer O'Connor, Clerke