

# CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTIANA HUNDRED

## Vestry Minutes

June 13, 2024

7:15 PM

**Present:** Ran Barton, Ruth Beresford, Audrey Bruce, Cindi Cozza, Barb King, Ted Ledden, Alexander Maynard, Thorpe Moeckel, Scott Nickle, Jamie Poston, Bart Reese, Jaq Whalen, Alexia Wolf

**Also Present:** Stacey Carpenter, Michael Kurth

**Absent:** Chuck Arensberg, Eliza Phillips

The meeting was called to order by the rector at 7:26 PM, and she offered the opening prayer.

### **Reorganization of the Vestry**

**Appointments:** Ruth made the following appointments: Ran Barton as Senior Warden (previously announced at last month's annual meeting), Jennifer O'Connor as Clerke, Mark Parsells as Treasurer, and Bob Reardon as Assistant Treasurer.

**Election of the Junior Warden:** Audrey nominated Alexia Wolf, and she accepted the nomination. There being no further nominations, Alexia was elected by acclamation.

**Class of 2027 Representatives:** Orientation for new Vestry members was held June 6, and at that meeting Cindi Cozza agreed to serve on the Board of Trustees for CCEP, and Barb King will serve on the Finance Committee. The other members of this class are Thorpe Moeckel and Jamie Poston.

**Ministry Match:** Ruth had requested that Vestry members locate their Ministry Match results or take the survey if they had not yet done so. She recommended that people re-take the survey periodically to keep the results fresh and to notify Jane Rubini when they do so, so that she can remove their old results from the database.

**Vestry Inventory of Gifts, Skills, and Experience:** The Vestry held breakout sessions in groups of three to share two gifts, two skills, and one experience that each member brings to the Vestry's work of leadership and management. Members were then invited to share something they learned about their fellow leaders.

### **State of the Parish**

**Rector's Report:** Ruth's written report was distributed in advance. She asked Michael to give an update to the number of new members who were welcomed at the service on May 19. He reported that 23 were welcomed, which is in line with the number of new members last year. Ran asked if there were any who attended the Belong class series who did not formally become members, and

Michael noted that there were a couple who had not moved forward so far, but we are still in dialogue with them. Anyone with questions on the Outreach topic is encouraged to reach out to Ruth or Ran directly. Ruth had asked for volunteers to work on the deeper dive into the results of the recent parish survey; Ran and Barb will do this. Thorpe asked about the timeline for developing and voting on the budget; Ran said that he will begin working with Mark Parsells in September, and that it should be a collaboration between the Finance Committee and the elected Vestry. Ruth noted that the budget is usually passed in February, once the majority of pledges has been received.

**CCEP Update:** Bart reported that the Trustees did not have a quorum at their June meeting. He summarized the written report from Chip Sawyer, CCEP Treasurer, that the school is in excellent financial health. With the 2023-24 year almost completed, they are ahead of budget on revenue and under budget on expenses and will end the year with a surplus. Ted asked about Denise Gilliam, and Ruth explained that she will be off for six weeks this summer, then she will return to cover the family leave of Jen Fordham (Preschool Administrator) through the end of this year, which will facilitate transition to Sheila Abio.

**Finance Update:** Ted directed the Vestry's attention to the financial reports for May, which had been distributed in advance. We are ahead of budget on income because of a number of 2024 pledges that have already been paid in full, and expenses are on track. The annual audit was completed with no findings. Regarding the proceeds from the 2023 Golf Classic, they are designated to be shared between the parish's ministries for children and youth and the preschool. Discussion followed, and it was determined that the proceeds would be evenly split three ways between children's church school programs, the youth ministry, and the preschool.

**Renovation Team Update:** Alexia and Cindi met with Heather Kenny and Martha Whitesides from Ministry Architects (MA) on June 10 regarding their recommendations for next steps. Ruth will forward MA's latest update for the Vestry. She will review the recommendations and plans in more depth and put them on the agenda for discussion at a future Vestry meeting.

**Property Update:** Thorpe reported on the lighting project for the church. The work has been delayed for a number of years due to the anticipated cost of over \$100K, and we had already set aside \$25K toward it. However, our experience during the chapel renovation project suggested that the cost might now be much lower. We engaged a consultant who determined that we only need to replace the control system at a cost of approximately \$50K. Due to inflation, it makes sense to do the work sooner rather than later. The Property Committee made the decision to complete the project this summer by tapping into the capital reserve, and then in 2025, the capital budget will be lowered by \$25K. We believe that our existing fixtures will work with the new control system and LED bulbs. The church will need to be closed for two weeks while the work is done this August, and Ruth anticipates that worship will be moved to the parish halls on the one Sunday that is affected.

### **Monthly Management Tasks**

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

**Other Concerns and For the Record:** Cindi expressed gratitude for the Water & Wilderness Worship co-led by Stacey that drew 38 participants. Michael noted that the parish survey showed that 58% of respondents have invited someone to church in the last year, and we want to make sure that these visitors are quickly plugged in to our community. Jaq mentioned that the Elder Ministry's Coffee and Conversation on the first Wednesday of each month has drawn some new people and is a good opportunity to foster connections in an intimate, informal setting. Scott reported that he has heard from non-parishioners that our Celebration of Life Committee does an excellent job with funeral receptions and that these visitors have been made to feel welcome and supported. Barb mentioned that at the annual meeting, she sat with a couple who attended the Belong class, and they told her that everyone has been uniformly welcoming. Ran expressed gratitude for the recognition of graduating seniors and the personal words that Ruth shared about each of their ministries. Ruth added that Mason wrote to the youth in the confirmation class noting how the seniors were recognized for their work, inquiring how we can find a suitable ministry for each of them. Ruth reminded the Vestry that all three of our clergy will be away June 22-23; the Rev. Brad Hinton will be covering all services, and Ruth asked the Vestry to be present to support him.

The closing prayer was offered by Alexia. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer O'Connor, Clerke