St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Meeting of Thursday, January 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by the Rector, George Arceneaux IV.

In attendance were: Senior Warden Deb Maue, Junior Warden Mark Schneider, Kelly Clissold, Peter Curtin, Blaise Denton, Jules Dulski, Gretchen Straw, and Chloe White. Also in attendance were: Treasurer Johnathan White, Clerk of the Vestry John Hillman, Emily Culbertson, and Rector George Arceneaux IV.

# Opening prayer and reflection: Mark Schneider

## Mark’s presentation focused on being called, referring to Bob Wyatt’s sermon from the previous Sunday.

### From Samuel: “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”

### “You laid your hand on me.”

### “Follow me.”

### Within 2.5 months, we will have closed the clothing closet; people were called to that project.

### How has each of us been called?

### Be still in the moment.

### People ask. Are we being called?

# Administration

## Changes to the Agenda—None.

## Approval of November minutes

* + Mark moved that the minutes be approved; Pete seconded; the motion passed without opposition.
* Treasurer’s/Finance Committee Report
	+ Johnathan White reported that the church experienced a significant surplus of $11,000 in December.
		- The church closed the year with an astonishing deficit of only $5,000.
		- The month had average expenses.
		- This month’s giving was the second highest in the year: $40,000.
			* Parishioners were catching up on their pledges.
			* Multiple unexpected donations of more than $1,000 each were received.
			* We ended the year with $16,000 more income than expected, fueled mostly by special gifts.
		- The end of year checking account balance was more than $30,000.
		- The investment balance grew more than $26,000 in December--roughly 80% of that amount in investment values; the remainder in dividends and interest.
		- About half of the $60,000 withdrawn in 2023 from the investment account ended up increasing our checking account balance from near zero to about $30,000; $12,000 that had been recorded as income was changed to be treated as a transfer from the investment account; the rest represents disbursements (which had already been set aside) to San Miguel, to St. Martin’s, and to the Makuebo (asylum-seeking) family.
	+ Revision in Financial Report Format regarding Endowment Fund transfers
		- Mark moved that endowment fund transfers be removed from the income budget. They are not income items; they are account transfers; Pete seconded the motion; the motion passed without opposition.
	+ Approval of proposed 2024 budget
		- A two-page report with an array of four years of budget figures (2021-23 actuals & 2024 projections) was presented.
		- The Christian Education position (now vacant) has been budgeted for eight months only
		- Paternity leave for George has been accounted for, but the Vestry suggested increasing the Supply Clergy line item by $1,800 (to a totalof $5,100) in view of the current rate of $300 per Sunday for supply clergy.
		- Using conservative projections/estimates, the 2024 projected budget shows a $$42,080 deficit.
		- Deb moved adoption of the 2024 budget as presented; Blaise seconded the motion; the motion was adopted without opposition.
	+ Kelly moved that the Treasurer’s Report be approved; Gretchen seconded the motion; the motion was passed without opposition.
1. Nominating Committee Report
* New Vestry members and Wardens will be elected at the Annual Meeting on January 28th.
* Possible Vestry nominees under consideration are:
	+ Howie Anderson
	+ Jack Cosbey
	+ Stephanie Krajewski
	+ David Langert
	+ Linda Person
	+ Sue Montgomery
	+ Howie Anderson
	+ Bill Urso
* Possible Warden nominees under consideration are:
	+ Emily Culbertson
	+ David Langert
	+ Luke Laurel
	+ Rachel & Jason Strietzel
	+ Jeremy West
1. Overview of 2024 Annual Meeting Agenda Items
2. Preparations for the Bishop’s Visit February 4
* Music
* We expect three individuals to be confirmed in the faith.
* We expect Howie Anderson to be received into the church.

# Rector’s Report

## The many people who attended and participated in the Christmas services and the pageant gave George lots of positive feedback.

* + - Some parishioners found themselves hungering for something more contemplative/solemn.

## We will have some changes for Lent:

## Rite I will be used at the 11 am service for all of Lent; there may be other adjustments in the other services as well.

* Pete Curtin will be serving as an acolyte; Peter Walters will be organizing acolyte training.
* Formation is feeling more and more full.
	+ Chloe’s work with the teens has been incredible and they remain invested.
	+ Wiggle worship continues to be a blast and there’s great participation.
	+ Episcopal 101 was fairly well attended though chaotic.
	+ George is exploring the possibility of employing an intern to help with formation.

## In his report George references Kurt Lewin’s Change Model for healthy, sustainable change.

## We will be having a Mardi Gras party, and it will be FUN!!

* The Peace Camp folks have approached George about using St. Christopher’s as the location for the camp.
	+ - How would this affect building use by parishioners?

# Parting Remarks from the Retiring Senior Warden

* “To be recognized as a leader, show them; don’t show them your messy kitchen.”
* Six years has been a challenge, and it’s been wonderful—especially re-establishing community.
* “Speak up! Your voice is important!

# Upcoming events

### 01/28 -- Annual Meeting

### 02/04 – Bishop Visit

* 02/13 – Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)
* 02/14 – Ash Wednesday *(& Valentine’s Day!)*

### Late Feb/Early March – Chili cook off

* + - 03/24 – Palm Sunday and Holy Week Begins
1. Closing Prayer and Adjournment

### The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm, following prayer led by George.

### There was no executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

John Hillman

Clerk of the Vestry