St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Meeting of Thursday, March 21, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by the Rector, George Arceneaux IV.

In attendance were: Senior Warden Mark Schneider, Junior Warden Emily Culbertson, Howie Anderson, Paul Clark, Kelly Clissold, Blaise Denton, Jules Dulski, Stefanie Krajewski, David Langert, and Chloe White. Also in attendance were: Treasurer Johnathan White, Clerk of the Vestry John Hillman, and Rector George Arceneaux IV.

# Opening prayer and reflection: Mark Shneider

## Question: What do we look like as followers of Jesus in this community?

### This church attracts us because we don’t need to wear God on our sleeves.

### All types of people are welcomed.

### Discipleship.

### The non-churched are welcomed.

### Those harmed by the church can be healed.

# Administration

# Changes to the Agenda—Add: a brief investment report from John Hillman.

* + 1. **Emily moved to approve the change; Kelly seconded; the motion carried without opposition.**

## Approval of the January minutes

* + 1. Mark moved that the minutes be approved; Blaise seconded; the motion passed without opposition.
  1. Treasurer’s/Finance Committee Report
     1. Johnathan White reported that the church experienced a deficit of roughly $6,000 in February.
        1. Expenses were slightly lower than expected, with pledge income being the main reason.
        2. Several additional pledges paid in full for the year, classified as “prepaid pledges” will be accrued over the course of the year.
        3. At the end of February, the checking account had a balance of $27,000, after accounting for pending transactions.
        4. Investments rose solidly in the month, with gains of roughly $12,000, increasing the value to $549,000.
        5. There was a payroll correction made for the rector in March of 2024 due to an overpayment in 2023, resulting in expenses in 2024 being less than budgeted by $2,000.
        6. February was a mixed month, but overall within the expected variance.
     2. Transfer of Excess Checking Account Funds to investments
        1. Emily moved that; if the checking account balance at the end of any month exceeds $20,000, the Treasurer is authorized to instruct the Associate Treasurer to transfer monies from the checking account into the money market fund in the Schwab investment account. The transfers cannot be less than $5,000.
        2. Chloe seconded the motion; and it was approved without opposition.
     3. Investments
        1. John Hillman provided a hand-out and a brief discussion of the investment portfolio, pointing out the extensive, worldwide allocation of the holdings, designed to provide strong potential returns while providing some reduction in volatility.
  2. Buildings & Grounds Committee Report
     1. Lower Altar Platform
     2. Emily moved that the B&G Committee’s recommendation to lower the altar by removing the steps from the sides of the altar be approved at a cost of $2144. Chloe seconded the motion and it was approved without opposition.
  3. Committee Liaison Sign-up
     1. When a Vestry member serves on an authorized committee of the Vestry, that person serves as the liaison to assure that the Vestry stays informed of the key discussions and actions of that committee. Not all committees have Vestry members participating as members; therefore, there is a need for Vestry members to volunteer to serve as liaisons to the Committees who have none as of now.
  4. Safe Church Training Modules
     1. All members of the Vestry who have not completed the Safe Church Training Modules will be asked to engage in this training as soon as they are able to do so.

1. Preparation for Rector’s Paternity Leave
   1. George reviewed the arrangements that are in place to maintain the parish’s successful functioning while he is on paternity leave. No issues were raised, and we all wished George and his growing family the best that the blessings parenting can provide to him and to Fiona.
2. Parishioner Check-in: Who is missing?
   1. The Vestry members suggested the names of several people who appear to have strayed away from attending services and other parish activities, and expressed the hope that these people could be encouraged to return to active participation.
3. Rector’s Report.
   1. Summary of Rector’s Report
      1. George provided that summary
   2. Parishioner Dinners
      1. Participants will volunteer to be part of this program.
      2. They will be assigned randomly to groups of four families each.
      3. They will meet for a meal 4-5 times over a 5-month period, and then another round will begin.
      4. Participants will hopefully be representative of all three of our main services in order to accelerate all of us getting to know one another more easily and rapidly.
   3. Advertisements to Wednesday Journal
      1. This marketing effort produced positive results and may very well become a regular strategy for attracting new members, along with other initiatives.
4. Upcoming events
   1. ??/?? Chili Cook Off
   2. 04/19 Thank You God For Video Games (Kids and family event)
   3. 05/19 Pentecost and the baby window REALLY opens
   4. 07/07 Outdoor Sunshine Service (Blue Christmas in Summer)
   5. Fourth of July Friendly Sunday Summer Star Wars Movie Night (Largely because I owe the non-swifties a flick night)
   6. 09/01 – George performing a wedding in MKE
   7. 09/02 – Labor Day
   8. 09/08 – Kick-off Sunday (Prepare the bounce house!)
   9. Late September/Early October: Fall Celebration of Richard’s ministry
   10. 10/26? Donut Day
   11. 10/31 Halloween for the Neighborhood at St. C.’s
   12. 11/03 All Saint’s Sunday with Evensong (Meal before evensong?)
   13. 11/24 Christ the King
   14. 11/28 Thanksgiving (Morning Prayer either at church or over zoom)
   15. 12/5 Advent Craft Night (5PM)
   16. 12/15 Greening the Church and Lessons and Carols
   17. 12/19 Blue Christmas
   18. 12/24 - 4PM Kid Friendly Christmas Eve; 10PM Christmas Eve
   19. 12/25 - 10AM Christmas Day Service
   20. Late Feb/Early March Chili cook off
5. Closing Prayer and Adjournment
   1. 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

1. Respectfully submitted,
2. John Hillman
3. Clerk of the Vestry