

Christ Episcopal Church, Rockville, MD
Vestry Minutes
Oct. 24, 2023, 7-8:30pm in the Parish House

Present: Fr. Tim Carr (Rector), Bryant Trost (Senior Warden), Matthew Salter (Junior Warden), Bill Hickman (Treasurer), Jeremy Snider, Emily Correll, Cindy Griffiths, Victor Ban (via Zoom), Rose Buck (via Zoom)

Opening

An opening prayer was provided, and the agenda for the October meeting was approved by unanimous vote.

Approval of September Minutes

The September minutes were reviewed. A motion to approve the September minutes was seconded and passed.

Property Report

The vestry learned of recent issues, including a water leak below the kitchen floor, and determined that further planning for HVAC system repairs was warranted. The parish house ceiling is also on the list of open issues.

School report

- 3.5 FTEs ahead of budget, translating into approx. \$90 K in additional funds to be transferred into reserves.

Treasurer's Report: Review of Sept. Financials

- Bill Hickman shared the latest financial reports.
- As of September, the church's pledge income was about 98% of the amount budgeted, year-to-date. Other giving was ahead of budget (175%), as was total income (111%), translating into approximately \$41 K in net revenue.
- Motions to approve the September financial reports were seconded and passed.
- Auditor suggested that we start reflecting depreciation in financial statements. Bill preliminarily disagrees and will set up a call with Father Tim to discuss the current practice in the diocese.

Review of Preliminary 2024 Budget

- Bill Hickman reviewed the preliminary draft budget.
- The vestry discussed communication expenses.
- A motion to defer voting on the final budget was seconded and passed, on grounds that projected pledge income will be in flux until conclusion of stewardship efforts at the end of November.

Selection of Vestry Members for Endowment Committee

- Bryant Trost and Cindy Griffiths will serve as vestry members on the Committee.

Vestry Code of Conduct

- Given that the church is entering a season of growth, Fr. Tim noted that meetings may often run from 7-9 PM, rather than 7-8:30 PM as reflected in the code, and all agreed.

Welcoming Ministry

- Fr. Tim: Big parking lot across the street can be used for Christmas Eve
- Rose shared updates from the Welcoming Ministry:
 - o Need more ushers
 - o Narthex: need brighter lighting, less clutter
 - o Need for better accessibility facilities, e.g. ramps on street
 - o Need to remove rust from and repaint handrails
 - o Will set up "Welcome" sandwich board on sidewalk
 - o Jeremy is developing a parking map to post online

Campus key fob system

- New system is up and running; vestry members who need a fob should let Bryant know

Overview of Bargain Box Situation

- Lease renewal date is approaching; Mr. Tan (landlord) plans to convert space to residential use
- Assets were not turned over to the church when Bargain Box closed. Fr. Tim's proposal: transfer \$20 K in cash from Bargain Box to Community Ministries; liquidate other assets on eBay; offer 3 spaces on Community Ministries leadership for Bargain Box leaders
- Public recognition of Bargain Box to be planned

Diocesan Budget

- The vestry reviewed the diocesan budget per request of the diocese, and did not have any comments.

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A closing prayer was offered, following which there was a motion to adjourn, which was seconded and passed.