

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 25, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Zoom Exclusive Meeting

Attending: The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones, Rector

Vestry: Marcia Leidig, Senior Warden
Patty Ingram, Junior Warden
Susan Crawford
Margo Farrara
Deb Prather
John Hufnagel

Treasurer: Helen Gierke

Finance Committee: Paula Paquette
Robin Mills (excused)

Thrift Shop: Eileen Carrara

Administrator: Marnie Ike

Media Director: Margaret Carr

Clerk: Teresa Hufnagel

Opening Prayer

Mother Jenny provided an opening prayer.

Approval of previous minutes May 21, 2026

Susan made motion to approve minutes with two caveats she had emailed.
John seconded. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Helen stated, "All in all, I think we're looking fairly good for June." As we have received far more than half of the pledges as well as more than half of TS funds in the first half of 2026, we need to continue to be frugal in the second half of the year. We have approximately 100K in checking account. as well as more than half of TS funds.

The Finance Committee was instructed by the vestry via an unanimous vote to tell First Citizens Bank the Line of Credit with Iona-Hope should be cancelled; renewal due August 1st.

Residual liability of \$65.71 removed from books to clean up accounting records.

An audit committee is being assembled. Only one volunteer thus far; two are needed.

The Finance Committee wrote an article for the upcoming Iona-Hope newsletter. Helen also made a request to the vestry for a 5-year plan and a 10-year plan.

Insurance

Most of the meeting was a discussion involving Vestry, Finance Committee and Patrick Hunt regarding insurance for Iona-Hope. Iona-Hope has had Church Insurance for many years. The diocese is offering a new insurance for churches who would like to switch. The new insurance company is Brown & Brown. After much discussion, the vestry voted to switch to Brown & Brown with the caveat that the price reduction needed to be substantial, meaning greater than 10%.

Thrift Store

Eileen provided the attached report to the Vestry before this meeting. Deb made a motion to approve the grants as-is. Susan seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The approved 2026 Thrift Store grants total \$70,000.00 which is the largest amount given in one year by the Iona-Hope Thrift Store.

Everyone thanked Eileen for leading the TS to such a productive year. Everyone also wished Eileen "Happy Birthday" as her birthday is the day after this vestry meeting.

Mother Jenny provided an ending prayer.

**THRIFT STORE
MANAGER'S REPORT
JUNE 25, 2026**

Eileen Carrara

I am submitting, for Vestry approval, the 2026 Thrift Store grants as recommended and approved by the Board of Managers on June 5, 2026.

We have received 25 requests and have been able to approve 23 requests. This year our focus was to address hunger, housing insecurity, clothing, etc. and to support those organizations who, in turn, support families through food, clothing, shelter, and emergency assistance.

As manager of Iona Hope's outreach, I would like to express my gratitude to Vestry for its support and for the generosity of the \$70,000.00 allocation for these grants. Through all our efforts we are able to serve our community, strengthen community relationships and live out our mission of faith in action.

IONA HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ONE MORE TIME THRIFT STORE

2026 Grant Requests

Organization

**All Souls Episcopal Church Outreach
14640 N. Cleveland Ave.
North Fort Myers**

**Their request is for support of its annual budget,
which has a deficit of \$16,218.**

**Amount Requested: \$10,000 (Last year's grant was
\$5,000.)**

**Amount Recommended: \$8,000. (To include \$500.
for support of Laundry Love Ministry)**

**Community Cooperative, Inc.
3429 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Fort Myers, FL 33916**

**Their request is to cover the cost of approximately
200 bags of groceries.**

Amount Requested: \$5,000.

Amount Recommended: \$4,500.

Fort Myers Rescue Mission
6900 Mission Lane
Fort Myers, FL 33916

Amount Requested: "Any amount to help."
Amount Recommended: \$4,500.

Gladiolus Food Pantry, Inc.
10511 Gladiolus Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33908.

Amount Requested: \$3,000.
Amount Recommended: \$3,000. (Amount
requested and granted last year was \$5,000.)

Jerusalem Church of God in Christ
2405 Ben St.
Fort Myers, FL 33916

Amount Requested: \$4,800.
Amount Recommended: \$4,800. (Amount
requested and granted last year was \$4,000.)

Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties
9701 Commerce Center Ct.
Fort Myers, FL 33908

Amount Requested: \$5,000.

Amount Recommended: \$3,500. (That is the amount approved last year. They have applied for a \$16,000 grant through United Way, and the Jewish Family Services was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Lee County Sheriff's Department.

South Ft. Myers Food Pantry
8260 Cypress Lake Dr.
Ft. Myers, FL 33919

Amount Requested: \$7,000.

Amount Recommended: \$5,000. (The same amount granted in 2025)

Laces of Love Charitable Foundation, Inc.
2077 J and C Blvd.
Naples, FL 34109

Amount Requested: \$7,500 to provide 150 pairs of sneakers. (In 2025 they requested \$5,000 for 100 pairs of sneakers and that was granted)

Amount Recommended: \$7,000.

Hearts & Homes for Veterans, Inc.
2230 Alicia St., Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Amount Requested \$15,000.

Amount Recommended: \$5,000. (The 2025 grant was \$5,000.)

Calusa Waterkeeper, PO Box 1165, Ft. Myers, FL 33901

Amount Requested: \$10,000 (In 2025 they requested \$5,000 for the same program and that was the amount granted.

Amount Recommended: \$3,000.

Guardians of Florida Animal Rescue
13931 Sophomore Lane, Ft. Myers, FL 33912

Amount Requested: \$5,000.

Amount Recommended: \$1,500.

Dockery's Amazing Rescues
1014 Manikin Ave., Lehigh Acres FL 33974

Amount Requested: \$5,000.

Amount Recommended: \$1,500.

Fur and Tails Animal Rescue
17070 Kentara Way, Ft. Myers

Amount Requested: At our discretion (In 2025 they requested and received \$1,500).

Amount Recommended: \$1,500.

Best Buddies in Southwest Florida
5237 Summerlin Commons Blvd., Suite 105
Ft. Myers, FL 33907

Amount Requested: \$3,500. (In 2025 they requested \$3,500 and we granted \$3,000. In 2024 we granted \$2,500).

Amount Recommended: \$3,000.

Southwest Florida Concert Band, Inc.
P.O. Box 61355
Ft. Myers, FL 33906

Amount Requested: \$3,000. (In 2025 they received a grant of \$2,500. And in 2024 they received a grant of \$2000).

Amount Recommended: \$1,500.

**Fort Myers Symhonic Mastersingers
c/o Julie Vergin**

16220 Via Solero Cir. #102

Fort Myers 33908

Amount Requested: \$3,000.

Amount Recommended: \$1,000.

Friends of the Slough

c/o David Minnick

7430 Key Deer Ct., Ft. Myers 33966

Amount Requested \$1,000.

Amount Recommended: \$1,000.

Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra

P.O. Box 60878

Fort Myers, FL 33906

Amount Requested: \$5,000 (In 2025 they requested \$5,000. And received a grant of \$500.)

Amount Recommended: \$500.

Alliance for the Arts

10091 McGregor Blvd.

Fort Myers, FL 33919

Amount Requested: \$6,000. (In 2025 they requested \$5,000 and received a grant of \$500.)

Amount Recommended: \$500.

Habitat for Humanity Lee & Henry Counties
12751 New Brittany Blvd., Suite 100
Fort Myers, FL 33907

Amount Requested: \$10,000.

For the purchase of five appliances for 4 new homes. (In 2025 they received a grant of \$3,146. For appliances for one home.

Amount Recommended: \$3,000. for appliances for one new home.

St. Raphael's Episcopal Church
5601 Williams Dr.
Fort Myers Beach, Florida

Amount Requested: \$6,000 for specific items.

Amount Recommended: \$1,000 for a tool and equipment shed.

El Hogar
c/o The Parish of Christ Church
25 Central Street, Andover MA 01801

Amount Requested: \$5,000 (In 2025 they requested and received \$5,000.

Amount Recommended: \$4,500.

**The Southwest Florida Historical Society 10091-A
10091-A McGregor Blvd.,
Fort Myers, FL 33919**

Amount Requested: \$2,000.

Amount Recommended: \$1,200.