

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry
September 8, 2020

Attendees:

The Reverend Ray Buchanan ✓

Vestry Members:

Joe Mulino, Senior Warden Excused with regrets

Ray Zentis ✓

Bob Earl ✓

Margo Farrara ✓

Alison Kinch ✓

Robin Mills ✓

Andi Jerger ✓

Debbie Prather, Treasurer, Member ✓

Patricia Ingram ✓

Guests - Persons of Interest:

The Reverend Suzy Post ✓

Eileen Carrara, Thrift Shop Manager ✓

Patrick Hunt, Stewardship ✓

John Gamble, Project Manager ✓

John Thomas Assistant Treasurer ✓

Paula Paquette, Clerk of the Vestry ✓

Guest: Douglass Lind, Consultant ✓

Opening Concerns and Prayers – Father Ray

Approval of Minutes – Motion Bob Earl, Second Patricia Ingram, to approve previous minutes August 11, 2020. All in favor.

Group Ministries – No reports at this time.

Announcements – Delegation for Diocesan Convention met in Convocation last Wednesday evening. It was done on Zoom from in each of the churches. Each delegation was at their own location. Elections and voting should go very well this year on line. The Diocese has a great system set up for virtual voting. Voting in the gathered convention does not go all that well all the time. The Deanery elected Paula Paquette to be the Lay Representative to Diocesan Council. It is a two-year position. It will be affirmed at Convention in October. Father Ray Buchanan is clergy representative for the Deanery to Diocesan Council now.

NEW FACILITIES

New Facilities – Father John Gamble, executive summary concerning building projects, new facilities. Final punch list was complete. Everything that had to be done as final items has been done. Compass Construction took down their sign. A final report was provided to the Vestry. Father Ray Buchanan wanted to express for the record his deep gratitude to Father John Gamble for the exceptional job that he did as construction superintendent for Iona Hope for the project. Father John did a wonderful job and made everything go so well and efficiently. Thank you!

Motion to express the Vestry's gratitude as well was made by Deb Prather, seconded by Bob Earl. All in favor with great enthusiasm and gratitude!!

DISCUSSION

Senior Warden Report, Joe Mulino

No report at this time.

Vestry Consultation

Doug Lind, consultant. Father Lind was speaking to someone in another Diocese this afternoon about the effect of the pandemic. It has gone on long enough now that people are starting to fray. There are levels of anxiety and anger. People do not know what they can count on. They feel out of control. Communication can help with a time such as this. We need to do all we can to communicate so that people can have something that they can count on.

Congregational Contacts

Father Ray is discussing this topic as well as the next agenda item Realm at the same time. Thank you to everyone who has signed onto Realm. It is an excellent tool for communication and for staying in touch with each other. Father Ray asks everyone to reach out to touch base with their respective contact list about how they are doing. How are things going at this point? Let the pastoral staff know if there is anything pastoral staff can assist with. Express any of these concerns with Mother Suzy Post and she will share with Father Ray. Please let people know about Realm and explain what it is. If people are not here, please ask when they might be back. Please ask people would anyone like to be a part of a smaller Zoom group that is social and/or educational in function? Those are being planned now. Would they want to do that? There are people who are willing to take part in setting up Zoom groups.

It is an ongoing consideration for us to get back to in person worship. It is being discussed continually and we will return to in person when it is safe to do so. The point was raised that some people are not familiar with Zoom, Realm and other such tools. We might need someone to assist with teaching these skills so people can participate. If it were a large group, perhaps Marnie Ike could assist. But it wouldn't be reasonable for her to take time to do a class unless it were a number of people, not just a few, in a class such as that.

Can we start to use the labyrinth or some of our outdoor space to make face to face contact with people, just as another way with people being in contact with each other. Outdoor connections seem to be safer than inside connections at this time. One of the main issues right now is the weather of southwest Florida. It is difficult to plan activities outdoors because of the weather here in southwest Florida. Some places are having outside services and limiting the size of the gathering and requiring masks and/or registrations, etc. Conversation about how we can possibly do some in person activities, a meal where everyone brings their own, etc. Yes, we all want to start doing in person services or activities.

In the future, we should acknowledge that we will be both an in-person community as well as online community. We will do both. Conversation about the importance of a registration sort of system and keeping track of who is attending and how many are attending. We need to consider those whose community bubble is quite large and those whose community bubble is very small. Keeping high risk people away from those who are out and about in community a lot is important. There are individual serving vessels for wine and the host. The host is in the bottom of this item with the wine at the top. It removes all chance of any contamination. We will take a look at all of the above items and options.

ACS/Realm Conversion

Excellent communication tool for people to be in touch with each other. Transition to Realm has been accomplished. (See above discussion.)

Safeguarding

Two members of the Vestry have not completed Safeguarding yet. Please complete asap and report back to Mother Suzy as completed.

New Capital Campaign

Not discussed at this time.

Strategic Planning

Not discussed at this time.

Invite, Welcome, Connect

Not discussed at this time.

Mardi Gras 2021 Recipient

Not discussed at this time.

DECISIONS

Finance Committee, Deb Prather

Financial reports were emailed earlier to Vestry. Any questions about finances? Treasurer Deb Prather reported on finances as of this date. The figures include \$34,000 of PPP on the financial report. Every time there was a payroll, there was money drawn into the operating account from PPP funds. It was like we received a loan. As the process goes along, we will document the use of the money and it will be forgiven. The end of the year will document the loan as a source of income. We had a great finance team meeting. The group enjoys meeting the week before the Vestry meeting. It is enjoyable. Finances are reflecting in a very good place this month. As for the capital campaign proceeds, we have received just \$69,000 less than pledges. This is pretty typical for a campaign such as this; people move or pass on. Not all pledges are collectible. This year, \$74,000 of Diocesan apportionment has been paid. Next year, we will pay \$16,000 additional. Those two figures are ten percent of the monies raised. All the accounting for the capital campaign is in fantastic, accurate order. At the Finance Committee, the process of budgeting for next year is underway. Marnie Ike has the spending plan for next year. She will be moving items over for the budget to keep that up to date. Salary increases are not being requested this year. Did we increase or lose in the investment with State Street? We think it may have been even. Treasurer Deb will look into it and report back. The market was a challenge this past year.

Stewardship

Patrick Hunt reported on what is happening with Stewardship. We have a great story to tell. Many people give and give regularly. Patrick attended a Stewardship event online and the question was raised about who we are at Iona-Hope and why we exist here. Some people do not like the word pledge because they fear a contract or commitment. We can also call it an estimate of giving. We will be providing information on signing up online for giving. This information will be forthcoming. It is a great story today about the completion of the capital campaign projects. It would be nice to see a narrated walking video of the Columbarium, the labyrinth, the updated Gathering Place, etc. And to share this widely. People need the connection. Patrick Hunt has a full-time job commitment now and he may need to have some help in order to get the campaign completed. Patrick thinks the campaign this year will be very successful. He will ask for help as the campaign emerges forth. He is very optimistic about stewardship because we have a great story to tell.

Columbarium Account

We will be asking for some changes as to what was voted last month related to operation of the Columbarium, to amend our implementation of the Columbarium. A first person has been interred there and now some new information has come forward as to some needed operational changes.

Thrift Store

An email was sent to current owners of the thrift shop property we are leaving from to ask them for terms as to how we will vacate the premises. Senior Warden Joe emailed back stating we would vacate the premises by the end of October and sooner if we can. They

responded back with asking up how we will handle the termination fee. We emailed back that we know nothing about a termination fee. We are awaiting a response.

For the location of Island Pass next to Target, we heard back from the owners of this property. They will still ask us to finance the build out and then repay. There were some other detail points in their correspondence.

Paddle Creek has responded to us with a draft lease. We asked for some items, such as splitting the deposit amount, half one month, half another month. We asked for LED lighting to be installed. Staff met with them on Friday. They requested a walk through with us. The ownership of that premises has accepted all of our requests. More and more, it seems the Paddle Creek location is where we want to be. Manager Eileen Carrara has some great ideas about that facility. We think we can generate even more revenue there. It seems very positive.

From the online motions completed last month, there is authorization to execute the lease to the property. The commitment is that they will have the buildout completed within 60 days of completing the lease. The owners are already doing some of the items that have been discussed. As soon as the lease is signed, it can really move forward. It looks very positive.

Junior Warden Report, Patricia Ingram

Patricia Ingram spoke with Bruce Downs about some electrical issues with the font and other areas. Door in Gathering Place was fixed. Font was cleaned. There are a lot of little things to be done and things are being prioritized. An email will be sent asking for volunteers. Patti met with Ray Zentis and Father Ray to gather information about what needs to be done. Much appreciated information sharing. There are various things that Patti will look to have volunteers do. She will send out an email. Weeding is especially needed at this time!

Closing Remarks

Father Ray stated that he and Mother Suzy both look forward to the time we can gather in person again. There really is something about being together that is so wonderful. Father Ray thanked everyone for all they do to make Iona-Hope the vibrant place that it is. Thank you much!

Vestry agenda completed 6:48 pm.

Adjournment