

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 18, 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 (excused)

Finance Committee: Paula Paquette
Robin Mills

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 July 23, 2026

Susan made motion to approve minutes. Marcia seconded. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Paula said that a shortfall of 10.4K is predicted for 2026. Monthly income is high due to a pass-through of 70K from Thrift Store grants. Overall, we are in good financial shape. John made motion to approve financial report. Patty seconded. Unanimously approved. Two families have discontinued automatic

payments to cover their pledges. Both will no longer support Iona-Hope. One of these families left the church.

Robin provided an overview of the Diocesan stewardship meeting. Need to move from funding a budget to funding a mission. People give to a mission, not overhead. He said to the Vestry that a mission statement is needed – one that is inspiring and fuels generosity. The diocese is recommending a generosity committee to oversee and promote generosity. Robin proposed a theme of “One Body, One Mission, One Church” for that committee. Mother Jenny added that we need to practice discipleship more – give not only from the “first fruits” but also from what remains. Robin also recommended an Estimate of Giving Committee.

The 70K grants from Thrift store needs to move from Other Revenue category to Pass Through and the FEMA money needs to move from Pass Through to Other Revenue category. Margo made a motion for these two items. Susan seconded. Approved unanimously.

Vestry discussed moving Hunger Ministry funds on a quarterly basis to Gladiolus Food Bank. All other designated pass-through funds (e.g., Episcopal Relief & Development) to be disbursed promptly once the collection period ends. Susan made motion. Patty seconded. Approved unanimously. Disbursements above a threshold (to be confirmed by Marnie) require Vestry approval, which can be done via email and ratified at the next meeting. Note that since the last Vestry meeting, the Vestry voted unanimously via email to send \$1,929.00 to Gladiolus Food Bank for back-to-school supplies and needs.

Thrift Store

Eileen expressed thanks for last weekend's service honoring the Thrift Store and its volunteers. She and the volunteers greatly appreciated the recognition. Eileen said the thrift store is financially strong and notated that the amount of grants in 2026 was 10K higher than last year and the amount of the assistance to the church was 20K higher than last year. Volunteers are dealing with the long, hot summer. The Thrift Store could use more volunteers during the off-season.

Eileen mentioned that the Thrift Store has an abundance of Christmas wreaths and someone is reworking those that need it. The Thrift Store would like to donate these wreaths to the church for the church to sell in order to raise funds.

Eileen confirmed that the Thrift Store does accept religious items, crosses, etc. and never discards them.

Rector Report

Mother Jenny discussed a memorial wall of photographs of deceased Iona-Hope parishioners to be built in the back of the church. A board covered with quilted material would be placed on the wall of the church. She hoped it would be in place for All Saints weekend – Oct. 31/Nov. 1. Some concerns were raised and the idea was tabled for the time being.

Senior Warden Report

Marcia expressed appreciation for the Saturday service honoring the Thrift Store. Eileen, managers and approximately 25 volunteers from the Thrift Store attended the service and were invited up to the altar to be recognized, thanked and to receive prayers.

Junior Warden Report

A group of young volunteers has helped Patty clean-up outside.

Raffle Discussion

John proposed a cash-prize raffle that would be tied to Celtic Fest – perhaps prices of \$1000, \$500 and \$250. He said he hoped to sell 10-20K worth of tickets. The prize money, per Florida law, cannot come from the proceeds of the sale of the tickets. The ticket sale money will be 100% profit. John suggested to link proceeds to something specific, like debt reduction, hunger ministry as opposed to our general checking account. No Vestry objections occurred so John will prepare a procedure that Mother Jenny will ask the Diocese to consider.

Sympathy Acknowledgement

Patty and Susan proposed a practice of the church sending flowers to immediate family members and cards to extended family members when parishioners experience a loss. Jenny and the Vestry want to express love and support to the parishioner, on behalf of our church family. Eileen suggested using altar flower dedications as a lower-cost alternative. It was also suggested that family contact information be included in the parish announcements so that parishioners could contact the family. A budget line addition for the flowers will be deferred until the 2027 budget as it involves a new line. The Vestry will find a way to pay the remaining of the year. Susan will be the point person orchestrating this activity for the remainder of 2026.

Mother Jenny provided an ending prayer.