

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry
December 19, 2023

Attendees:

Interim Rector Coleen Tully ✓

Vestry Members:

Paula Paquette, Senior Warden ✓

Alison Kinch, Junior Warden ✓

Steve Walsh ✓

Alison Kinch ✓

Rob Ricca ✓

Kathie Hart ✓

John Mitchell ✓

Guests - Persons of Interest:

Eileen Carrara, Thrift Shop Manager ✓

Joe Mulino, Treasurer ✓

Linda Griffin, Clerk of the Vestry *excused* ✓

Ken Owens and Donna Owens, Sextons ✓

Opening Concerns and Prayers – Mother Coleen Tully

Prayers are invited for celebrations, intercessions, ourselves, others.

INFORMATION

Approval of Minutes – Motion Rob Ricca, Second Steve Walsh, to approve previous minutes of November 28, 2023. All in favor.

INTERIM RECTOR REPORT

Mother Coleen Tully – Way of Love class is concluding. Everything is pulled together for our Christmas services. Advent has gone well. We are planning in January for a new member class. There are several interested persons. Repairs are being made to the Gathering Place. Our spiritual life is on track. People are more fully committed to Iona-Hope. There is much more peace amongst all now.

Our pageant is happening Sunday evening at 5:00 pm. Anyone who can help is invited to do so. There are cardboard animals that are set outside and all the costumes are used for the pageant. We will have Chinese food between the two services in the office area.

Thrift Store Update

Eileen Carrara, Thrift Shop Manager

We are on revenue point for the projected year end profit estimate, over \$100,000. We don't have so much furniture right now. That drives profit for the most part. The new company that will pick up furniture is on board and is seeming to be wonderfully organized and professional. This Thursday will be the first pickup. We are hopeful. Plans for new year. We need more volunteers. Eileen will be preparing a handbook for all volunteers. We are large enough to need to put information in writing in the form of a handbook. We are receiving requests from persons who are un-homed for assistance with heavy clothes, blankets, hotel vouchers, etc.

**Finance Committee,
Joe Mulino, Treasurer**

We have a net operating loss of \$41,540 at this time (end of November) based on income and expenditures. For the church. As for good news for 2024, this is the first time that pledges at this time (end of November) are at the level they're at. \$299,000 in pledges has been received to date. We received \$1,150 in memorial contributions for Kathleen Ulm. Vestry reviewed the Mission Statement and Policy Guidelines of Iona Hope's One More Time Thrift Shop. The question has emerged as to why we are not receiving any funds from the Thrift Store to support the operations of the church itself, the building fund and the operating fund, not to exceed 50 percent of the proceeds of the Thrift Store. We are in a dire predicament financially as a church right now. We have not taken any monies from the Thrift Shop in a very long time. This year, we need to consider it. Treasurer proposes we utilize 30 percent of the net proceeds remaining for this year new Right now, the net profit is \$118,000 for the store. The shop would be left with \$70,000 remaining for outreach in the bank for this coming year. Transfer to church on the financials. Motion Kathie Hart, second John Mitchell, for the Thrift Shop to provide \$30,000 to the church operating account. All in favor. We try to keep six months of expenses in reserve for the Thrift Store, which we do have. This will take place before December 31, 2023.

Community Garden, Kathie Hart

She is proposing that we consider thinking about a community garden in the back parking lot. Can we approve Kathie Hart to research this matter. We need to have water access. We would speak with Miriam Ortiz, Gladiolus Food Pantry. We had shared raised beds before. This did not do well because of lack of watering and caring for it regularly. Vestry was favorable to look into this idea. Several names were mentioned of people who may be interested.

Small Groups, Calendar Items

Vestry Retreat, Friday, February 9, 2024.

Lectio Divina is going upper well.

Welcome Ministries, Circle of Hope – Kathie Hart

LIFE Justice Ministry – Steve Walsh

We need to recruit some people. We will meet with the LIFE staff person. We will work on having a group for the Nehemiah Action. The action this year will be mental health. The specific issue will be honed down.

Vestry Consultation

Doug Lind, consultant *Excused*

Junior Warden Report

Alison Kinch, Junior Warden

The Gathering Place is being worked on extensively. Some damage in the Gathering Place is not related to the hurricane. It is older than that. Some we will have to pay out of pocket. Some will be covered by insurance. Can we ask people for extra contributions for the costs. Can we put photos onto the screens and ask persons for contributions. It would be good for anyone looking to make an end of year donation. We are waiting on an estimate of the cost. Should we speak with an attorney to try to get additional coverage from Church Insurance? We had mold remediation done in 2019 in the Gathering Place. Motion to have John Mitchell to talk to an attorney to see about our out of pocket costs, if anything should be covered additional by Church Insurance, second, Rob Ricca. All in favor. This will happen only after consulting with the Diocese about where FEMA items stand. Alison Kinch will

speak with John Edgar at the Diocese to ask about this whole item. The font is being taken apart for maintenance. We will see if we can move the electrical to outside of the font if possible for easier maintenance. We will try to fix all the font issues when we have it apart.

Senior Warden Report

Paula Paquette, Senior Warden

Our OTM has been reviewed by the Canon and he will send us an uploaded copy soon. The Canon is reviewing our Parish Profile and will provide us with comment soon. We are on track for the Search materials to be on line in January. We are starting to think about what our office staffing picture will look like if Patty Ingram is, in fact leaving April, May.

Annual Meeting

We have interest from three persons for running for Vestry. We will include a bulletin item that three spots will be open for Vestry, to be elected at Annual Meeting. Rector, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer need to prepare reports to present at Annual Meeting. They will be included in the Annual Meeting booklet. It will be the last Sunday of January (28th), 11 am, after the 9:30 am service.

Clergy Transition

Motion to spend \$75 to purchase the Healthy Clergy Transitions program, Steve Walsh, second, John Mitchell. All in favor.

Rector Candidates

In the spring, Vestry will need to schedule the visits of Rector candidates. Probably in beginning March. The candidates will preach a sermon and conduct a service for Vestry and the Search Team. And, we will need to pay for them to get here and for accommodations. We will need to have guides to take the candidates around the area and to possibly meet the Bishop and Canon.

Website Redesign Status – Patty Ingram

Photos will be added and then the website will be ready to launch. It's on Wix now. Anyone interested can come in to look at it before the launch. Circle of Care will need new access to the new website.

Closing Prayers – Mother Coleen.

Vestry agenda completed 6:00 pm.

Adjournment

*Respectfully submitted,
Paula Paquette, Acting Clerk*