

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church  
Minutes of the Vestry  
February 9, 2021

**Attendees:**

The Reverend Ray Buchanan ✓

**Vestry Members:**

Joe Mulino, Senior Warden ✓

Patricia Ingram, Junior Warden ✓

Ray Zentis ✓

Bob Earl ✓

Alison Kinch ✓

Kathie Hart ✓

Andi Jerger ✓

**Guests - Persons of Interest:**

The Reverend Suzy Post ✓

John Thomas Assistant Treasurer ✓

Eileen Carrara, Thrift Shop Manager ✓

Debbie Prather, Treasurer ✓

Paula Paquette, Clerk of the Vestry ✓

**Guest:** Douglass Lind, Consultant ✓

**Opening Concerns and Prayers** – Father Ray Buchanan, Prayers for healing and prayers for concerns were named.

**OPENING DISCUSSION** – Father Ray – See below.

**INFORMATION**

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion Joe Mulino, Second Bob Earl, to approve previous minutes of January 12, 2021. All in favor.

**Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes** – Motion Bob Earl, Second Ray Zentis, to approve minutes of Annual Meeting January 31, 2021. Correction: spelling on the name of Kathie Hart, new Vestry member.

**Group Ministries** – No reports at this time.

**Announcements** – None at this time.

**Visitor Comments** – None at this time.

**DISCUSSION**

**Vestry Consultation**

Doug Lind, consultant. The group has formed now as a new Vestry. After the pandemic, we will be able to gather in person to have some planning time. Each member of the Vestry will speak with our consultant to consider what their hopes and plans are for the Vestry and what might be needed in order to get that job done. Doug Lind will contact each member to have a conversation.

**Senior Warden Report, Joe Mulino**

Not much of a new items report at this time. Update on Thrift Store. Still waiting for the inspector to do a final inspection. Paula Paquette is assisting to help the church accomplish the move of things to the new shop. She knows a young man who has a crew who will assist with the move of the storage room, The Gathering Place items, and the rest of things to the shop. The cost will be covered for this moving crew by Paula Paquette. Eileen and Nick Carrara have been able to get into the new store to start painting the kitchen area floor.

However, tiles were piled up from the ceiling. There are a lot of stains on ceiling tiles and some missing tiles. Joe Mulino will ask about it. So, they did not want to paint the floor yet pending the ceiling tiles go up.

### **Stewardship**

Stewardship. Generating Excitement About Who We Are is the theme. Update by Father Ray Buchanan. Emails and letters were sent to everyone recently. Some responses have been received. Follow-ups are being done now to ingather pledges from those who have not pledged yet. Postcards will be sent to those who do not really go on line. We will need volunteers So far this year, 55 pledging units are in. Follow-up will be needed to bring up to date those who typically do pledge. Some people pay pledges in May to cover the summer. Some people have already paid for their usually sent in May gift. We are deep into applying for a new PPP loan. Some people are having some challenges getting onto the site to post a pledge. Marnie Ike is always happy to help. We had set the end of January to close the Stewardship Campaign. We need to get this accomplished so we can get a firmer sense of where we're at. Please let Marnie Ike know if you can help with calls.

### **Annual Meeting**

Any thoughts, concerns, ideas for next year?

**Annual Parochial Report** – Is always required. It needs to be reviewed and then submitted soon. Father Ray has the report which was mostly completed today. It will be submitted to the Diocese. It must be certified by Clerk, Treasurer, Rector, and, must be approved by the Vestry. There are still a few updates that must be made. Statistics are provided, fairly similar to last year. But, dramatic difference emerged from in person services being curtailed in March once the pandemic came in. We have lots of activity from services presented on line, Noonday Prayers and Compline. The PPP loan is included in our report. There are some increased costs from livestreaming that are included in the Parochial Report. We will get this report completed as soon as possible to submit timely. Financial part is rather obtuse. The figures being requested are unique to the Parochial Report. Motion to accept the report contingent on receiving a final copy, Joe Mulino, second, Alison Kinch. All in favor.

### **DISCUSSION**

**Diocesan Convention Delegates** – Does anyone want to be a delegate to Diocesan Convention? We don't need a decision today, but please be thinking about it. Third weekend in October. If Convention is in person, it will be held in Punta Gorda. Please consider serving and let Father Ray know. Three delegates are needed. It would be good to have three alternates also.

**Finance Committee** – Father Ray Buchanan wants to begin a discussion on changing what the Finance Committee is doing and how it is reporting. The Vestry should decide what they want from the Finance Committee and then changes can be encouraged. Tonight's goal is for discussion, not decision. What is the goal? Do we want the Finance Committee to be more planning in advance rather than reacting? The Finance Committee is appointed by the Vestry. Recommendations to the Vestry would be a function of the Finance Committee. It also might would want to have some turnover, and, so, some movement. It would report to the Vestry. Perhaps we would have members rotate on and off. Usually, the Vestry sees a note that the Finance Committee met. Perhaps, more info as to what they met about would be helpful. The question is, what does the Vestry need from the Finance Committee? It would be helpful to know what other churches in the area do which are similar in size and mission. Is there particular information the Vestry would want to receive before their meetings? Good discussion. We will revisit this next month.

### **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. Treasurer Deb Prather spoke with Marnie Ike today about pledges and non-pledged income. We are looking at being \$100,000 off right now. We have lost a few significant pledges. One will not be reclaimed. One might be reclaimed. The financial outlook right now is bleak. There is no other word for it. We must all make Stewardship a part of our daily concerns. There was a large one-time pledge that we will not see anymore. The non-pledged income comes in regularly even though the individual might not fill out a pledge card. We know what those are. Expenses have been less, of course. But, we do need to improve our understanding of the income forecast. 2021 ended well, \$20,000 to the plus, due to the PPP loan. We have a hard time timing our invoices payments, because it's difficult to know when income is coming in. Christmas letter netted \$7,700. Not as great as it has been, but really quite good. We are grateful about the results of 2020 finances. Deb Prather would be glad to review financial report with our new Vestry member. Discussion on the financial report, timing of giving, seasonal concerns, etc. There will be monies come back from the Thrift Shop once that opens. And it will be good when the store starts generating income. We may need to renew line of credit so we have some cushion for general operations. Everyone expects that 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of this year will be strong.

**Item of Interest** – The Junior Warden position is an annual appointment by the Vestry at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting. Bob Earl makes a motion that the name of Patty Ingram be placed in nomination for the position of Junior Warden, second, Joe Mulino. She accepts. All in favor. Thanks extended for all she does!

### **Junior Warden Report, Patricia Ingram**

Patricia Ingram reported. She will additionally send a written report. Maintenance items are being completed as needed.

**Item of Interest** – Proposal concerning the Columbarium. Father Ray Buchanan suggests that a Columbarium Niche be offered to John and Wanda Adler without the customary fee. Motion to so offer, Joe Mulino, second, Bob Earl, with the conditions discussed earlier, no fee. Everyone votes affirmative and feels that this is a great idea. A letter will be drafted by the Rector.

**Item of Note** – With a Vestry size of seven, a Quorum is four.

**Item of Note** – Kathie Hart brought up conversation about Invite, Welcome, Connect. A lot about that has been paused because of the pandemic. One of the ideas has been to do more Zoom meetings and activities. Are we able yet to do small in person gathering, like at the labyrinth, because that seems one of the things that people are missing. Everyone is encouraged to provide their ideas to Kathie Hart.

**Closing Prayers** – Father Ray.

**Vestry agenda completed 5:57 pm.**

*Adjournment*