

**Iona-Hope Episcopal Church**  
*Vestry Meeting Minutes*

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 2:30 p.m.**

**Attending:** The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones, Rector

**Vestry:** Paula Paquette, Senior Warden

Alison Kinch, Junior Warden

Marcia Leidig

Deb Prather

Rob Ricca

John Hufnagle

Neil Tousley

Steve Walsh (excused)

**Treasurer:** Joe Mulino

**Assistant to the Treasurer:** Thom Price

**Thrift Shop:** Eileen Carrara

**Administrator:** Marnie Ike

**Media Director:** Margaret Carr **Sextons:** Ken and Donna Owens

**Opening Concerns/Prayer**

Opening Prayer.

Expression of prayers of concern and thanksgiving.

**Approval of previous minutes February 25, 2025**

Deb motion to approve, Rob second . All in favor.

**Thrift Store Update: Eileen Carrara**

Written report was submitted. Sales have been brisk. The store is tapering a bit. People are leaving permanently. There are a lot of donations. A lot of people are expressing fears about the economy. People are giving up their second homes. Canadians are leaving. Lots of homes are for sale and not many are selling. THANK YOU THANK YOU to Sextons Ken and Donna Owens for their work on the floors in the thrift shop. They are beautiful. First Citizens Bank is interested to get the business of the Thrift Shop. An appointment will be set up. Volunteer appreciation party will be on April 6. The Thrift Shop will be doing gift certificates soon. Grant applications are starting to get interest. We will contact last year's recipients if we do not get another application from them by April 15 or 16.

## **Finance: Joe Mulino**

Reports were emailed out. We are slightly ahead on our finances at this time. Summer is coming. Which is always a bit challenging. Pledges are a bit ahead of this time compared to last year. People are paying in advance.

The Treasurer would like to recommend that we take the cost of the AC from the Thrift Store. The cost is \$34,587. Marnie is processing a deposit payment of about half of the cost. The unit should be installed next week.

An email vote was completed in the affirmative for the original approval for the purchase.

Motion for the Vestry to take \$35,000 from Thrift Store revenues to pay for the unit. Neil made the motion, seconded by Marcia. All in favor.

**Stewardship and Fundraising** Nothing further to update at this time

## **Announcements/Upcoming/Programs**

Upcoming Events/Services – Holy Week is soon. Mother Jenny is making some slight updates to our Liturgy for this year. Holy Week is a week that is really important to intentionally move through together. Mother Jenny encourages us to attend as many services as possible, in person or on line, or to do something special each day to be in the week.

We have a postcard schedule for all of the services for Holy Week.

- Palm Sunday. Passion Narrative will be read at the end of the service. The majority of the service will focus on the Liturgy of the Palms. Then, we will read the Passion Narrative (by one person). Then strip the altar. Preaching on Palm Sunday will be by a guest. We will leave in quiet. People are encouraged to bring a jacket or a sweater to lay down just as what happened for Jesus. Then, the coats/sweaters will be donated to the Thrift Shop to get to people in need of a warm garment.
- Tuesday – Vigil of the Gospel of Luke. We will come in and sit and listen to the entire Gospel of Luke being read out loud. There will be 5-6 readers. Bring a journal to write in as you listen and reflect.
- Wednesday is a Taize service.
- Thursday will be an Agape style meal, one long table at the back of the church. Foot washing will be the service again still.

- Friday 1-3 pm will be the Stations of the Cross on Repeat. Friday 6 pm will be a service of the Stations of the Cross.
- Saturday is 5 pm, the Vigil. Mother Jenny will be chanting that service.
- On Easter, Sunrise Service will be at 7 am. Then 9:30 am will be the primary Easter service.

The Liturgy Team is meeting again next week to finalize all arrangements. Margaret Carr, Alison Kinch, Donna Kress, Julie Vergin, Marilyn Moore and Bob Hunt are the Liturgy Team.

Interfaith Ministry – We are hosting an Interfaith Ministry gathering on April 7 at 6:30 pm. It will be commentary on The Golden Rule by different faith traditions. We all do share our commitment to the Golden Rule. Alison and Marcia will coordinate desserts for the gathering.

Quiet Day is this Thursday, March 27 beginning at 9:30 am. Paula will be providing the breakfast and lunch. About 12 people are signed up.

Mystery Silent Auction. Being set up this Saturday afternoon beginning at 3 pm. The actual event is Sunday after the 9:30 service. There are already some top bids being submitted. It looks like a very exciting event. This will be a new thing we do. Mimosas will be served in the church. Then, lunch will follow in the Gathering Place.

Small Groups updates. Nothing additional at this time.

Pastoral Care. Some pastoral care people invite Mother Jenny to attend with them on visits so she can be meeting people. This is great. We need to always work on being intentional with communicating who has needs and who we can visit and including Mother Jenny sometimes.

Welcome Ministries.

We would like to start a bulletin for the church. They put out a bulletin and it has advertisements in it. St. Columbkille uses a company that does the bulletin for them. Ad revenue can be between \$500 and \$3500 for a year for a business card ad. We can sell ads on a monthly basis or an annual basis. The bulletins are weekly, handed out in church. It would be the back page of the leaflets handed out in church.

Rob, motion to form a committee on how we can move forward with investigating getting ads for our bulletin. Second, Alison. All in favor. Rob will start getting some interested people together.

## **Selling gift cards as a fundraiser.**

Where do we stand on this? We need to set up Iona-Hope as a recipient. We need to be on the RaiseRight list of charities. After we are listed, then the Vestry will try the service. We will purchase e digital cards from the site. And see how the whole thing works. RaiseRight.

You have an app on your phone. You purchase a gift card for something you're going to buy. Iona-Hope gets a percentage from the purchase. When we go to the merchant of choice, we pay using the gift card. So, we want a bank account to which the percentage funds would be deposited.

John will create a PowerPoint for training on how we use it. Then, it can be presented to the church membership.

There are an array of merchants listed. We can purchase American Express cards, e.g., and use it for bills and reload it. It functions like a debit card. For fuel purchases, we would have a physical card that can be reloaded.

We do not want to have any physical cards sent to the church. Any physical cards purchased by someone would be sent to their own home. We will have Marnie like set up Iona-Hope as an entity. We will try the program. Then, if it works, we will expand on it and broaden to the parish.

## **Reports**

Junior Warden – Written report submitted. Air conditioner will be installed next week. Shutters are being repaired. The font has been repaired, but it seems like someone is turning off the water flow. We are investigating why. What is the purpose of doing this?

Neil's daughter and son-in-law are reinstalling the bricks around the font, so that will save us \$700 for the cost of the brick relaying. THANK YOU!

Senior Warden – Meeting with Neighbors Network of Lee County. They approached us concerning their community projects.

Naming of new Clerk. Thank you to Victoria Lines for serving so capably as our Clerk. THANK YOU! Motion by Marcia to approve Teresa Hufnagle as our new Clerk of the Corporation. Seconded by Alison. All in favor.

Naming of Chaplain to the Vestry. Mother Jenny would like to have a Chaplain for the Vestry to be in prayer with us. To speak up in a meeting in case

the Holy Spirit prompts. Motion, Deb, for the Rector to appoint a Chaplain to the Vestry. Neil seconded the motion. All in favor.

One of our largest budget items is paper. We use toilet paper, paper towels, printer paper. Can we set up for the Diocese to buy these things in bulk? And, then, the parishes can purchase from them at a discount Marnie will start looking at how much of things we need to buy in order to get bulk pricing. Maybe as a Deanery, we can start there for bulk buying. Mother Jenny will speak with the Bishop about this.

Do we need to establish a Building and Grounds Committee? There are people who have gifts in this area that could be hugely helpful. Everyone, please give Alison names of people that you think might be interested in serving. Announce this in church, also, to invite people to join. We will create a Google form. We will announce in church. We will approach people we know of who may be interested.

Rector – Nothing further at this time.

***Adjournment – 4:15 pm***

**NEXT MEETING – Tuesday, April 22 at 2:30 PM.**