

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

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: Joe Mulino (Excused)

Thrift Shop: Eileen Carrara

Administrator: Marnie Ike (Zoom)

Media Director: Margaret Carr

Chaplain: Marilyn Moore (Excused)

Clerk: Teresa Hufnagel

Opening Prayer

Mother Jenny provided an opening prayer.

Approval of previous minutes January 22, 2026

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

Thrift Store

Eileen stated the process has starting to prepare applications for grants. Eileen asked for the vestry to approve \$70K for the total of grants for this year. Patty made a motion. Susan second. Approved unanimously. Volunteer's Dinner will be April 12th at 2:00 pm. Eileen invited the vestry and Mother Jenny to the dinner. Eileen is looking for a clubhouse for dinner.

Events

Deb needs eleven more gifts for auction. Auction will be March 1st at 11:00 am.

Eileen suggested to set up a poster for Celtic Fest at the thrift store and to have someone man it and pass out postcards.

Treasurer's Report

Mother Jenny and Marnie stated we have \$89K in bank. This includes the \$29K of restricted funds. No need to take Thrift Store funds this month. Deb made a motion to approve January 2026 Finance Report. Margo seconded and passed unanimously.

Mother Jenny indicated that she would like to begin a Finance Committee composed of Helen Gurkee, Robin Mills, and Paula Paquette. Helen will serve as Treasurer and Finance Chair. Finance Committee will meet one week before Vestry, and one member of the Finance Committee will report to the Vestry. Patty made a motion to approve the Finance Committee and Treasurer. Marcia seconded. Passed unanimously.

Senior Warden Report

No update.

Rector Report

Discussion of potential vestry retreat and CAT results.

Junior Warden Report

Patty passed out a sign-up sheet for Sanctuary cleaning. Each ministry should clean up after their event. Buildings and Grounds Committee working well together.

Modular Buildings

Results from the Town Hall meeting were 83% to remediate and 17% to demolish with 48 votes in total. During the Town Hall, the thrift store offered \$20K for remediation and repairs. Two parishioners offered \$5K each. At the vestry meeting, Mother Jenny gave everyone in attendance a chance to express their opinions. Deb made a motion to remediate and repair the modulars with funds offered by the thrift store and two parishioners and to begin the process of developing a permanent solution within three months. Marcia seconded and it was approved unanimously.

Mother Jenny provided an ending prayer.

Treasurer's Report—Joe Mulino

Recap of Financial Statements— January 2026—Respectfully submitted. Joe.

Treasurer's Report
 Vestry Meeting February 19, 2026
 Recap of Financial Statements January 2026

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
400300 Contributions-Pledged	\$ 15,196	\$ 56,296
400301 Contributions-Non Pledge	\$ 910	\$ 3,365
400305 Contributions-Extra Pledge	\$ 0	\$ 0
400500 Contributions-Plate	\$ 1,333	\$ 869
400700 Special Contributions	\$ 0	\$ 996
Total Contributions Revenue-Jan.	\$ 17,439	\$ 59,534
Total Other Revenue-Jan.	\$ 1,012	\$ 680
Total Pass thru Revenue Jan .	\$ 2,949	\$ 2,217
Total Revenue- Jan.	\$ 21,401	\$ 62,431
Total Expenses-Jan.	\$ 36,432	\$ 50,403
Net Income/Loss-Jan.	\$ 15,031	\$ 12,028
Year to Date Income	\$ 21,401	\$ 62,431
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 36,432	\$ 50,403
Year to Date Net Income/Loss	\$ 15,031	\$ 12,028
Year to Date Contributions-Pledged	\$ 15,196	\$ 56,296
Year to Date Contribution-Extra Pledge	\$ 0	\$ 0
Year to Date Contributions- Non-Pledged	\$ 910	\$ 3,365
Year to Date Contributions- Plate	\$ 1,333	\$ 869
Year to Date Special Contributions	\$ 0	\$ 996
Year to Date Total Contributions	\$ 17,439	\$ 59,534

Recap of Financial Statement January 2026

Thrift Store Account

<u>THRIFT STORE RECAP-Jan. 2026</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
Revenue Income – Jan.	\$ 57,233	\$ 50,085
Interest Income-Money Mkt-Jan	\$ 437	\$ 479
Total Revenue Jan.	\$ 57,670	\$ 50,564
Total Expenses – Jan.	\$ 27,462	\$ 23,973
Net Income/Lose-Jan.	\$ 30,373	\$ 26,591
Year to Date Income	\$ 57,233	\$ 50,085
Year to Date Interest Income	\$ 437	\$ 478
Total YTD Income	\$ 57,670	\$ 50,564
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 27,296	\$ 23,973
Year to Date Net Income/Loss	\$ 30,373	\$ 26,591

- ◆ Pledged income for the month of January totaling \$15,196 is historically low for the beginning of the year. Total revenue for January totaled \$21,401 compared to \$62,431 in 2025. Hopefully Pledge income will increase during February.
- ◆ The church operating account at the end of January totaled \$20,547. If we deduct restricted funds of \$31,067 we have a negative cash flow.
- ◆ If Church revenue continues to remain low I recommend taking monthly Outreach payments from the Thrift Store to the Church to avoid a negative cash flow. The 2026 Budget for the Thrift Store currently allocates \$100,000 in outreach to Iona-Hope for the year to assist with the church operating funds.
- ◆ As a reminder to the new Treasurer and Finance Committee the Church Line of Credit which currently has an outstanding balance of \$30,000 needs to be paid in full by the end of June. This is a requirement under our line of credit with First Citizens Bank that we comply with a 30 day clean-up period each year.

Junior Warden Report—Patty Ingram

Not much to report, only been on the job 2 weeks.

We have focused on the little things that can be done while we await a decision on the buildings.

We still have quite the list of things to accomplish. Some things that have been completed include:

- Pressure washing the outside of the Sanctuary and office buildings (on Alison's watch)
- Ditches dug, extensions added to gutters to keep water from pooling under the buildings (on Alison's watch)
- Toilet seat and drop ceiling tiles in women's bathroom replaced
- Missing screws on sign in front replaced
- Sanctuary windows cleaned

Steve is working on replacing worn out weather stripping.

We will make a plan once we know where to place our priorities after the next vestry meeting.

Thank you to Steve, Jeffrey, Fred, Alison and Ken for all your assistance .

Respectfully,

Patricia Ingram, Jr. Warden

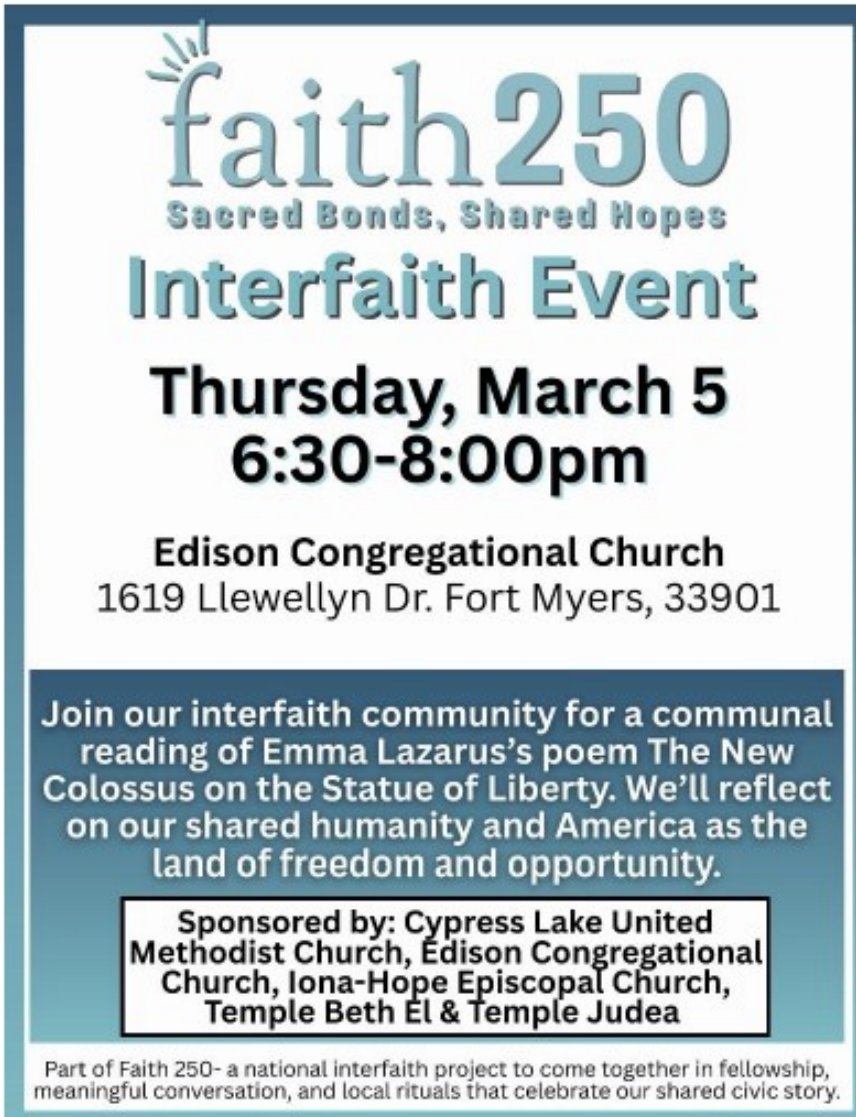
Interfaith Report—Margaret Carr Cerniglia

February Interfaith Update

A great turnout for our monthly Interfaith Meeting on **Tuesday February 10th**. The topic for the evening was "How do religious traditions help us find meaning and purpose in our lives (or do they)?"

Temple Judea hosted this month's meeting. I was pleased that 13 parishioners attended from Iona-Hope!

On **Thursday March 5th** we will gather with clergy for a **"Faith250"** Interfaith Event which will be held at **Edison Congregational Church 1619 Llewellyn Dr. Fort Myers from 6:30 -8:00 P.M.** All are welcome to attend!



The poster features the 'faith250' logo at the top, with 'Sacred Bonds, Shared Hopes' underneath. The main title 'Interfaith Event' is in a large, bold, teal font. Below that, the date and time 'Thursday, March 5 6:30-8:00pm' are displayed in a bold black font. The location 'Edison Congregational Church 1619 Llewellyn Dr. Fort Myers, 33901' is listed in a smaller black font. A dark teal box contains white text describing the event: 'Join our interfaith community for a communal reading of Emma Lazarus's poem The New Colossus on the Statue of Liberty. We'll reflect on our shared humanity and America as the land of freedom and opportunity.' Below this is a white box with a black border listing sponsors: 'Sponsored by: Cypress Lake United Methodist Church, Edison Congregational Church, Iona-Hope Episcopal Church, Temple Beth El & Temple Judea'. At the bottom, a small teal box contains white text: 'Part of Faith 250- a national interfaith project to come together in fellowship, meaningful conversation, and local rituals that celebrate our shared civic story.'

faith250
Sacred Bonds, Shared Hopes
Interfaith Event
Thursday, March 5
6:30-8:00pm
Edison Congregational Church
1619 Llewellyn Dr. Fort Myers, 33901

Join our interfaith community for a communal reading of Emma Lazarus's poem The New Colossus on the Statue of Liberty. We'll reflect on our shared humanity and America as the land of freedom and opportunity.

Sponsored by: Cypress Lake United Methodist Church, Edison Congregational Church, Iona-Hope Episcopal Church, Temple Beth El & Temple Judea

Part of Faith 250- a national interfaith project to come together in fellowship, meaningful conversation, and local rituals that celebrate our shared civic story.

Church Events—John Hufnagel

Celtic Fest - Everything is falling into place for an excellent afternoon. Will be pushing the marketing aspect in the next few weeks.

Bingo - Low turnout on Feb. 11th - about 13 players. We had more than double that in January. We made \$63.00 on the 11th factoring in Teresa donating her winnings. House minimum pots are \$20.00 for first four games, \$30.00 for next three games and \$50.00 for final, cover-all game. Everyone still had fun.

RaiseRight - Teresa and I have earned \$2,590.09 for Iona-Hope since April 1st, 2025.

Mahjong (Teresa) - Going well! Play twice a month. 9 to 12 players each time. Some are non-IH folks.

Animal Ministry—Marcia Leidig

“All God’s Creatures” Animal Ministry Report 2/19/26

We had our best crowd yet at our February Saturday dinner. We feasted on Mexican chips and dip, Tacos, cinnamon cheesecake bars, and even sneaked in a little sangria. All this, and we brought in \$220 for All God’s Creatures.

On February 7, our group arrived at Pelican Preserve at a chilly (read freezing) 7:a.m. to help set up for the HEAL Cat Walk. This is a very worthwhile group that focuses on trap-neuter-spay for feral kitties, and they run a no-kill cat adoption program. All cats are neutered and chipped before being eligible for adoption. \$10,000+ was raised from sponsorships and pre-walk registrations, and many more registered that day.

Senior Warden Report, February

Yahoo/Inbox

Marcia Leidig

From:marcialeidig1951@gmail.com

To:Debprather, Ray and Margo Farrara, John Hufnagel, Susan Crawford, Patricia Ingram and 1 more...

Cc:Marcia Leidig

Tue, Feb 17 at 5:14 PM

Hello everyone. I didn't seem to get this report to Marnie on time, so here it is.

Since our meeting on January 22, we have all been extremely busy.

On 1/25, we held our annual meeting, which was well attended. I would say the major topic of the day (or the year) was our finances. We have had a very expensive year with mold issues in both buildings, a budget shortfall for the year, and then our regular month to month issues.

On 1/31, I observed the technical booth operation to get an opinion on whether or not the vestry could be called upon to help in the booth on occasion. It is my considered opinion that we do not need to obligate ourselves to help there at this time. I for one would rather do the church cleaning occasionally than to take this on. But we are open to further opinions.

On 2/6, I attended the thrift store manager's meeting with Mtr. Jenny. I feel that we have a good working relationship with our thrift store employees, which is so important considering that a majority of them are not Iona Hope members. Once again, we were offered \$20,000 by the thrift store to go toward mold remediation in the modular building. It was stated that not only is Iona Hope doing without this building, but the community groups that use it from time to time. We were assured that this offer was a sincere one, agreed on by all employees, not made begrudgingly. We certainly appreciate it.

On 2/10, we met to discuss the gathering place possibilities, followed by a zoom meeting with Marnie.

On 2/11, we met for the second Hope Collaborative, and had a large group attend. I'm not sure if any of us counted, but I'm confident that we had 25-30 in attendance. We went over more of the Holy Cow results, and shared thoughts on how to use this info at IH.

On 2/15, we held a Town Hall Meeting to give information regarding our options for moving forward with a plan for our modular building, including approximate costs for each. There was also time for questions and opinions from the congregation. Everyone in attendance was asked to complete a 3 question survey online stating their preference. We were all asked to prayerfully consider this important decision.

We held an impromptu bake sale for all services last weekend, and were able to contribute \$318 to our general account.

Still another busy month ahead.

Peace

Marcia
