

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry
October 12, 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 ourselves, others, thanksgivings, concerns, celebrations, invited.

OPENING DISCUSSION

Father Ray Buchanan – Welcome to Kathleen Ulm and Margaret Carr. We have four candidates for Vestry for the three positions that will be open. Rob Ricca and Paula Paquette are also considering the positions.

INFORMATION

Approval of Minutes – Motion Joe Mulino, Second Bob Earl, to approve previous minutes of September 14. All in favor.

Group Ministries – Report will be later more in full.

Announcements – None at this time.

Visitor Comments – See above.

DISCUSSION

Senior Warden Report

Joe Mulino, Senior Warden

A couple of things. One, salary amount reimbursement related to the thrift shop. He doesn't think that the thrift store finances related to salary was finalized. He makes a motion to increase the amount coming from the thrift store from \$1,500 to \$4,000. The additional \$2,500 will cover the salaries for the store. Second by Patti Ingram. He would like the \$2,500 to be effective as of end of October. All in favor.

We had our first stewardship meeting a couple of weeks ago. Thank you to those who attended. What we would like now is to have one of the Vestry members chair the Stewardship committee. The next meeting is on the 18th of October at 10 am. John Hart has a schedule that precludes him from this responsibility. He is extremely supportive of all of this. Looking for a volunteer. We will do away with calling the Stewardship. It will be

committee chair for generosity or giving. We will sort of eliminate the word “Stewardship”. We will also include the word “giving” rather than “pledge”.

Vestry Consultation

Doug Lind, consultant

No report at this time.

Invite, Welcome, Connect

Kathie Hart, Chair, Invite, Welcome, Connect

November through March is proposed to start Small Group Leaders meetings. Paula Paquette will head that up. Alison Kinch is interested in having members of the Vestry liaison to all Small Groups. This will be discussed later. John Swift is working with our clergy on training lay persons to make pastoral care visits. The training will be about 10 weeks. We will begin the process of tracking who is attending meetings and who is not. The barcode system will somewhat be reinstated. Gail Hamlett is interested in contacting people who attended a couple of times so we can follow on and reach out to them. We are also trying to have a group of “accompaniers” so that someone tags along with new visitors to sort of make sure they are welcomed and included and have someone to relate to them. We will be increasing our reaching out at the welcome desk so that we make sure there is someone there at the desk at all times so people can approach someone. There was an interesting idea that maybe a video can be played at announcement time, perhaps video clips of Small Group leaders so that people would know more about our groups.

Group Assignments

Alison Kinch

A list of all Small Groups was sent out last week with the hope that we can assign Vestry liaisons to be in touch with all Small Groups. The list is not 100 percent complete or up to date; we need to reach out to people to really complete the listings. There is a synopsis of all groups in the list we have. Perhaps we can include the Vestry liaisons on the listing we have and which then can be handed out. Vestry liaisons can encourage the groups to start back up again, help them set up meeting times and spaces, etc. Is anyone here interested in any particular groups.

Bob Earl, Caregivers Connect, Thrift Store, Supper Club, Hospitality, Community of Hope.

Kathy Hart, church school, current events, Finding Hope, Invite-Welcome-Connect, Small Group Leaders, welcoming.

Joe Mulino, finance, stewardship, Altar Guild, Acolytes, confirmation, adult education.

Andi Jerger, All God’s Creatures, Women’s Breakfast, Recovery and Twelve Step.

Alison Kinch, Shawl Ministry, Technology, Bible Study, lay readers, music.

Patti Ingram, Broadway Palm, hunger ministries.

This will be revisited after the Vestry election.

Thrift Store Update

Eileen Carrara, Thrift Shop Manager

Good news. We have reached \$100,000 in sales as of Saturday. We are outsourcing for the furniture donation pickups. This has been for two weeks now. \$70 per hour, their truck, their person power. This is going very well. They are going on Friday to do a big job.

Advertising. We don’t do any advertising. The Happy Thrifter is a good source for advertising. They are taking renewals of ads now. Last year, we did a quarter page. They do thrift store bus tours. This year is \$390 per quarter page. They asked if we would consider a half page. There may be some real value with the ad. It will cost \$685 for a half page ad.

Bob Earl has offered to pay for this as a donation. THANK YOU SO MUCH. Saturday hours are now extended to 3:00. This has been beneficial. We plan to open Mondays starting November 1st. We are reaching out for volunteers. We have some and are looking for more. We will put notice of this in the bulletin again.

Finance Committee Changes

Not discussed at this time.

Stewardship

Report above.

Reopening Timelines

We are actively planning things for the reopening. We are continuing to do things cautiously. One of our big concerns is that it would be very rough if we open further and then IF we ever would need to pull back again. People probably would not be gracious about that again. We have knowledge of people who have recently died from Covid who were vaccinated. We still need to be very cautious. Some of what we are looking at doing... All Saints will be November 6 and 7. We are looking at possibly having a reception on the labyrinth after all three services with prepackaged foods. It would be social but not throwing everything open wide in terms of food. Interfaith Thanksgiving service is being considered. We will have our service at church Thanksgiving morning. We are looking at the Interfaith one also. We are already beginning to source out to do the drive through nativity again. We are actively working on the drive through and we are talking about the pageant also. The pageant is the best attended service we have every year. Do we open ourselves up to that? Do we require masks? We would almost have to. We have reached out to all the drive through volunteers. Every one of them said yes. That will certainly be able to be done. If we do the pageant, we might just make a Christmas mask that everyone can wear. It would be festive. Do we have out one thing for everyone to hold that's simpler than the usual costumes and props? Outdoor reception for All Saints seems like a really nice idea. If we can get some of the Small Groups going, that will help with some of our social needs. Then, we can be at least beaconing toward where we are going with opening. The Bishop is not lifting any restrictions at this time. We think the number is still 50 percent of fire occupancy? If there is an occupancy cap, it would be tough to turn anyone away if the cap is reached. If we are being restricted, it would be tough to invite people from other congregations. Some congregations have no restrictions now already, so it would be difficult to have these different standards and states together. We can self serve beverages and other things if we do a reception. It can be simple but effective.

We had talked about doing a retreat in the fall. It's just not going to happen. The Vestry is responding affirmatively to the Advent study. After the election, the Annual meeting in January, we can have a set date for the retreat for the new Vestry. We can again do a Vestry study then, too. A multi-week study.

Budget for 2022

See below for Treasurer report.

New Capital Campaign

Not discussed at this time.

Strategic Planning

Not discussed at this time.

Mardi Gras 2021 Recipient

Not discussed at this time.

Vestry Composition

Not discussed at this time.

DECISIONS

Finance Committee, Deb Prather

A financial report was emailed ahead of the meeting together with preliminary financials. Income is \$32,800 less this year than last year. But our expenses are \$3,379 less. That's why we are able to keep going. We know that there is income not paid in yet. It will be received by the end of the year. As Treasurer Deb said to the Giving Committee, we should be very proud as to where we are now taking into consideration what we have been through. A worldwide pandemic which has rocked the world, the state, the community, our

church. Attendance is starting to pick up. Our finances are very decent. We think we will end the year on a positive note. Treasurer Deb expressed she is very positive about everything. We have been forgiven our second PPE loan. We were proactive. We received the loan monies. We spent it as it was expected. We were forgiven. Financial statements are now on the website. Treasurer Deb has been Treasurer for ten years and she is choosing to step down after the Annual meeting this year. She will always go where she is called by the Lord. She needs a bit of extra time at home just now.

John Thomas said today that he will cease to be the Associate Treasurer when the Treasurer to which he is the Associate retires.

Junior Warden Report

Patricia Ingram, Junior Warden

There are things that absolutely need to get done. Patty met with an irrigation company today. There are a number of irrigation things that need to be done. The cost estimate received for needed valves, sprinklers, etc. is about \$1,600 (Coastal). Patty contacted the people who did the irrigation for the new build. People can review the estimate. The Gathering Place was completed. There are some lights on timer that need to be repaired. We can request Coastal to do a wet check quarterly if we choose. We are having the roof checked regularly according to contract.

Closing Prayers – Father Ray. Please remember Diocesan convention and our delegates this Saturday in your prayers.

Vestry agenda completed 6:02 pm.

Adjournment

***Respectfully submitted,
Paula Paquette, Clerk***