

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 23, 2026, 5:00 p.m.

Zoom Exclusive Meeting

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: Helen Gierke

Finance Committee: Paula Paquette

Robin Mills

Thrift Shop: Eileen Carrara

Administrator: Marnie Ike

Media Director: Margaret Carr (excused)

Clerk: Teresa Hufnagel

Opening Prayer

Mother Jenny began by asking what had brought each of us joy. Three individuals responded. She then provided an opening prayer.

Approval of previous minutes June 25, 2026

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

Treasurer's Report

Helen stated that checkbook balance is \$108,491 (excludes 18k FEMA insurance funds). She added that first six months are closely in line with budget. The church has received 120k from the Thrift Store so far this year. The switch to

Brown and Brown insurance has reduced insurance expenses by 7-8k. We had hoped for 12k reduction, but more savings might come when more churches make the switch to Brown & Brown. Debbie requested that the vestry receive the full monthly financial report, not just a summary. Marnie will send the full monthly report to vestry moving forward. The balance on Iona-Hope's mortgage is approximately 600k. Discussed ACS to Realm migration.

The amount that Iona-Hope should receive from the Thrift Store was discussed. 120K correlates to about 63% of the TS profit. Charities received a total of 70k this year. Discussion concluded that while this amount will probably remain at similar levels in the short-term, long-term the Church needs to become less dependent upon the TS.

Capital campaigns were discussed in a very general way. The Finance Committee said their current thought is to wait until pledges total 400k annually before beginning a capital campaign but that is just a very rough estimate.

Other finance items include:

- the line of credit was officially closed
- Legacy Society has been disbanded due to poor participation and parishioners not meeting commitments
- Move toward Endowment Fund which has started but currently contains low funds. Can be used for emergencies and capital campaigns. Managed by State Street Bank. Robin to review wording of Endowment Fund.
- Stewardship Campaign will begin in November. Not enough snowbirds back by October.
- The Clover point-of-sale system contact person will be changed from Ray Buchanan to Helen Gierke. This system pertains to TS.
- The audit committee will be Peggy Hannon, Sharon Nelson and Sandy Blaine. They will conduct audit in August; audit is due to Diocese in September.

Thrift Store

Eileen and Mother Jenny have arranged for a Thrift Store volunteers celebration on August 15th at the Saturday evening service. Service will also include prayer for TS grant recipients. Marcia, Patty, Margo, and Eileen will coordinate a light reception following service. Invitations to volunteers have already been distributed.

Eileen reminded the Vestry that the TS donates more than grants. The TS donates a significant amount of clothing to a variety of organizations. The TS has very little waste – a purpose for everything.

Eileen also stated that the project to add a direct link between the TS and the warehouse next door has been shelved for the time being.

Rector Report

Loren will be present twice a month and will provide recorded music twice a month. Christine will coordinate coverage.

Iona-Hope will have an entry for Lakes Park Scarecrow Festival which will occur in the park October 9-25. Peggy Hannon paid the \$150 fee. Margo will speak with Bob Hunt and Margaret about the theme for the scarecrow.

The Gladiolus Food Pantry will have a Trunk-or-Treat near Halloween. Miriam coordinating. Patty volunteered to lead Iona-Hope's efforts.

The next Vestry discernment meeting will be August 6th, 4:30 to 6:00 via Zoom.

The next Vestry meeting will be August 18th, 5:00 to 6:30 via Zoom.

Mother Jenny provided an ending prayer.