

IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Minutes of the Vestry
February 27, 2024

Interim Rector

The Rev. Coleen Tully

Vestry Members:

Paula Paquette - Senior Warden,

Alison Kinch - Junior Warden (Zoom)

Rob Ricca

Patty Ingram

Steve Walsh

John Mitchell (absent)

Debbie Prather

Marcia Leidig

Linda Griffin

Joe Mulino - **Treasurer**

Thom Price - **Assistant to the Treasurer** (absent)

Victoria Lines - **Clerk to the Vestry**

GUESTS:

Consultant to the Vestry – Fr. Doug Lind

Margaret Carr – Media Director

Eileen Carrara – Thrift Store Manager

Kathie Hart

Ken & Donna Owens

Opening Prayers & Concerns:

Interim Rector Rev. Coleen Tully opened the meeting at 3:30 pm with prayer. Prayers offered were for celebrations, others, ourselves, and other numerous concerns.

Discussion:

Paula opened with a question put forward by Rev. John Danner as to what we can do as individuals and Vestry to foster hope, nurture faith and model love.

Robust discussion ensued and resulted with many thoughtful ideas.

Rev. Coleen suggested we move beyond prayer for transition to a prayer of call. A new prayer was offered and feedback requested. All members agreed. Rev. Coleen will forward new prayer to Alison to move onto the slides.

Vestry members discussed the transition between Rev. Coleen and the new incoming Rector.

Approval of Minutes:

Vestry Meeting Minutes for January 23, 2024.

Motion to approve, Rob. Second, Steve. All in favor.

Interim Rector's Report: Rev. Coleen Tully

Support requested Tuesday, March 5 for move back into the office.

Blessing of the Rector Search Team will be this Sunday.

Expression of deep gratitude and thanks for all those that have helped, and continue to help, in the office.

Thrift Store Report: Eileen Carrara

Grants are currently being accepted.

Eileen expressed the need for plumbing work.

Discussion ensued regarding the solicitation for potentially a new janitorial service.

Motion to approve, Rob. Second, Patty.

All agreed.

Finance Report: Joe Mulino

Copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed.

It was reported that an error occurred during the input of one of the pledges in the stewardship campaign. As a result, the total amount of pledges received was overstated. The initial report indicated pledges totaling \$326,935, but the actual amount is \$287,635.

Group Ministries and other topics:

Kathie Hart presented the community garden project

"Hope Gardens" and requested permission to pursue grants.

Motion to approve, Steve. Second, Rob.

All agreed.

Kathie and Paula requested a Vestry volunteer to be the liaison for this exciting new project.

Steve Walsh discussed L.I.F.E. Leaders regarding rally and actions quickly approaching.

Margaret Carr reported that the new website is up and running and has been receiving great feedback.

Rev. Coleen discussed need for a new office volunteer to train with Patty.

Alison Kinch discussed status/requirement of “Safeguarding Training”.

Junior Warden's Report: Alison Kinch

We were notified by Lee County that we are out of compliance with the required backflow testing. The company that has done it before is no longer in business. Florida Plumbers will be on site this week to do the testing and submit the results to Lee County.

The dead palm tree in front of the church has been removed. Thank you, Bob Earl, for agreeing to pay for this.

The air conditioning in the sanctuary was repaired. Alison will speak to Conditioned Air about a maintenance contract for all units.

Gathering Place update:

The move back to the offices is planned for March 5th.

Can we go ahead with the second air conditioner (was already partially paid for)? Vestry agreed to this.

Insurance submission – for the recoverable depreciation. Alison will contact Sylvia to find out what documents (copies of checks, etc.) are needed to claim this (approx. \$23,000).

Senior Report: Paula Paquette

Discussion included the search for a new Rector.

Ideas were discussed regarding the number of candidates that the Vestry wishes the Search Team to recommend.

It was decided to charge the Search Team to identify three finalists for the position of Rector. Additionally, Vestry asks the Search Team to provide a written paragraph outlining reasons why the Team considers each candidate to be an ideal Rector. Motion to approve, Marcia. Second, Rob.

Motion agreed.

Vestry Consultant: Fr. Doug Lind

Discussion of cultural return/change and the importance of communication. He encouraged us to become better listeners and ponder pathways of action. Vigorous discussion ensued regarding a variety of ideas.

Meeting ended at 5:15 pm with closing prayer by Fr. Lind

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Lines, Clerk of the Vestry

