

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church  
Minutes of the Vestry  
October 13, 2020

**Attendees:**

The Reverend Ray Buchanan ✓

**Vestry Members:**

Joe Mulino, Senior Warden ✓

Patricia Ingram, Junior Warden ✓

Ray Zentis ✓

Bob Earl ✓

Margo Farrara ✓

Alison Kinch ✓

Robin Mills ✓

Andi Jerger Excused with regrets

Debbie Prather, Treasurer, Member ✓

**Guests - Persons of Interest:**

The Reverend Suzy Post ✓

John Thomas Assistant Treasurer ✓

Paula Paquette, Clerk of the Vestry ✓

Julie Vergin, Parish Nurse ✓

**Guest:** Douglass Lind, Consultant ✓

**Opening Concerns and Prayers** – Father Ray Buchanan

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion Joe Mulino, Second Bob Earl, to approve previous minutes of September 8, 2020. All in favor.

**Group Ministries** – No reports at this time. We are receiving inquiries as to when AA groups might be able to start meeting again. Once worship services have started, we will look at group meetings after then.

**Announcements** –. Debbie Prather, Andi Jerger and Robin Mills will have terms expiring at annual meeting this January. All three are eligible to stand for re-election. Please inform Pastor Ray if you are interested in standing for election again. Alison Kinch will be next year since she assumed a term.

**DISCUSSION**

**Senior Warden Report, Joe Mulino**

First part of security deposit for new thrift shop was paid. The next payment is coming. The owner of Paddlecreek has authorized the property manager to sign the lease with us. We should have the signed executed lease soon. There has been a slight delay to completing and opening the store. The town and its inspections are a bit delated. Signs were taken down from the existing facility last week. All signs are down. Eileen, Nick, Joe, Patty, Bob assisted with emptying a truck of furniture being moved. There is a temporary storage place behind Stars where items are being stored. Another truck load from Shellpoint was also received. The big move will be Monday and Tuesday from the old location to the storage unit. We will move into the new location as soon as the final permit is received. Father Ray Buchanan has signed the termination letter from the old thrift store with the terms that were included in the previous letter to the Vestry. Ann Vickers from the Diocese contacted the church to get copies of the lease documents so it can move through standard review by the Diocesan Finance Committee as required.

## **Vestry Consultation**

Doug Lind, consultant. Father Lind brought up two items. The planning that has gone into preparing for in person worship has been very impressive. As comprehensive as any he has seen. The group worked very well on this. Now, we should articulate and monitor for what's needed for the responsible and safe opening. The functioning of the Vestry. It has been a long enough while since the Vestry retreat and perhaps it is time to check in with each other to see how the Vestry is doing functioning together. It would be a good thing to do and helpful in assessing how to move forward together. Do we want it as a discussion item for the November meeting? General consensus, yes, let's discuss in November.

## **Congregational Contacts**

Any items to bring up from congregational contacts? None at this time.

## **Stewardship**

Patrick was going to present tonight about Stewardship, but he was unable to do so tonight. Please keep Patrick in your prayers.

## **New Capital Campaign**

Not discussed at this time.

## **Strategic Planning**

Not discussed at this time.

## **Invite, Welcome, Connect**

Not discussed at this time.

## **Mardi Gras 2021 Recipient**

Not discussed at this time.

## **DECISIONS**

### **Finance Committee, Deb Prather**

Financial reports were emailed earlier to Vestry. Any questions about finances? Treasurer Deb Prather reported on finances as of this date. The figures are not particularly favorable for the month of September. The Finance Team discussed all happenings and we may end the year anywhere between \$20,000 and \$30,000 in the red. Going forward into 2021, it is highly unlikely that we will receive any new pledges. We will be counting on those who currently pledge. We will rely on those who regularly pledge for income for 2021. The Finance Team asks Vestry to look at the budget for 2021 to ascertain what ministries and items the Vestry wishes to fund for 2021. Vestry has a copy of the budget. In the budget is the correct apportionment amounts. There is no increase for any staff member. There will be a reduction in health insurance costs because Father Ray turns 65. Will there be a choir in 2021? Will there be Sunday School in 2021? The fundraising expenses are tied to Mardi Gras so the expenses may be less. The cost can be reduced from \$8,000 to a more modest amount for the purposes of the budget. A lot of the fundraising may come from Nancy Buchanan and the pet projects. Pet ministries generate their own revenues so no upfront fundraising monies are needed. Fundraising line item can be reduced to \$2,000. Parish Nurse did not have expenses last year. Supplies can be reduced. Other lines can be reduced individually as well. Licenses are for software, music, etc. Musicians continue to work. We will be having a new drummer in a few weeks. Vestry members will review the budget and provide input to Finance Team.

Finance Team was asked to think outside of the box to generate funds to cover this year's deficit. We usually do a Christmas letter. The idea that emerged that is outside of the box is perhaps to see if we can possibly find a matching grant. We can ask foundations for a matching grant if Iona-Hopians can give to charities of their choice. It might be designated to Gladiolus Food Pantry or another food pantry. We can ask people in the congregation to do a matching grant. We have already given about \$15,000 to the Gladiolus Food Pantry

this year. We have very generous members who support the food pantry. The project would be that every dollar given to the food pantry is matched by a foundation with a contribution to Iona-Hope. Father Ray will seek information from Diocesan resources to see if they have ideas for these financially challenged times. We will be doing the Christmas letter again as well. It has usually been for the purpose of specific projects. Donations received in response to that have been good.

### **Re-Opening Proposal**

Senior Warden Joe Mulino reported on the possible re-opening plan. It was worked on as a group. Thanks to Julie Vergin who headed the effort to develop an operational protocol for safety and procedures. Thanks to Deb Prather who headed the effort to develop a Covenant for everyone to sign agreeing to safety standards and care of each other. The driving in plan was discussed at length. It sounded confusing to some of the Vestry. We are hoping to have vehicles drive in, loop back around the parking lot, come to a stop where temps would be checked while people are still in their vehicle. Then, they go park. Is it possible that the driving in plan will cause people to try to arrive so early that then they are at church socializing which is what we are trying to avoid. A Vestry member discussed a plan he saw at another church. There was a check-in at the doors, not at the cars. And a lot of the care and safety protocols came in to effect inside the church. They had pre-registration. The guideline will be 100.4 per CDC guidelines, 99 degrees being too tight. Recommend we use all CDC guidelines. There will not be a lot of people outside of volunteers at a 25 percent occupancy. There will be about 12-15 volunteers and the remainder as attendees? Maybe only 35 or so attendees in the beginning? The 25 percent occupancy allows for 50 total people. Temperature, collection of covenants, and checking in the attendee will be done when they drive in. If we are handing in forms, we may be going against the recommendation to not having paperwork being handed around when we are gathered. We need to accommodate the fact that some people do not do anything on line; some only use paper and mail. Repeating things each week will be too much. Temp checks will be done each time. One member suggested everything should be done in advance with the exception of temp checks which will be done each week. Do we want to consider testing staff? Do we monitor who is out and about? It would be fair to ask people who are working at the service if they have been tested? Seems a fair question. Still determining how many people would be needed to support the service, seems like 8-10 plus clergy. We need to assess this whole thing as we go along. We need to start small and then, as we are successful, we can start considering an increase. It was suggested that the Vestry go back to their congregational contacts and sort out who only communicates by mail or phone so that we can facilitate their registration. We do have people who are not on line, not watching the services, and needful of an alternative way to participate in the registration knowing they won't use a computer. We thank Peace Lutheran who shared information with us concerning their opening. We modified to fit our unique selves. We are proposing the first Sunday to be October 25<sup>th</sup>, the last Sunday of October, a 9:30 service that would be Morning Prayer. Assuming it goes well, then we would try to have a service of Eucharist on November 1<sup>st</sup> for All Saints' Day. We would first offer an invitation to those who have lost someone to attend the All Saints celebration. Joe Mulino makes a motion to have a first service on October 25<sup>th</sup> and then reassess, seconded by Patricia Ingram, all in favor. Discussion asks us to really look at the registration process and make it hugely user friendly. All in favor of the motion.

### **Junior Warden Report, Patricia Ingram**

Patricia Ingram reported. Lots of little things have gotten accomplished. There is one major issue ongoing in the Gathering Space. There was a gutter issue, a lot of water came in to a wall, there was mold in it, remediation has been completed, insurance has been asked to cover the damage that was caused. This is pending.

Diocesan Convention is this Saturday. Please keep your Delegation in your prayers. Father Ray Buchanan has accepted the Bishop's invitation to be the Dean of the Fort Myers Deanery this coming year. Congratulations to Father Ray!

### **Closing Prayers**

Father Ray

**Vestry agenda completed 5:53 pm.**

### ***Adjournment***

**From:** Andi Jerger <[andijerger@yahoo.com](mailto:andijerger@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 12, 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** Ray Buchanan <[rbuchanan@ionahope.org](mailto:rbuchanan@ionahope.org)>  
**Subject:** Vestry meeting

Good morning,

I won't be able to attend the Vestry meeting, Dena my boss has been in town and leaving tomorrow late afternoon, I have to work from 3-8.

Exciting news about opening the church!