

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 2:30 p.m.

Attending: The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones, Rector

Vestry: Paula Paquette, Senior Warden

Alison Kinch, Junior Warden

Marcia Leidig

Deb Prather

John Hufnagel

Rob Ricca

Steve Walsh

Susan Crawford

Treasurer: Joe Mulino

Assistant to the Treasurer: Thom Price

Thrift Shop: Eileen Carrara

Administrator: Marnie Ike

Media Director: Margaret Carr

Chaplain: Marilyn Moore

Sextons: Ken and Donna Owens

Clerk: Teresa Hufnagel (Excused)

This was a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Opening Prayer

Marilyn provided an opening prayer.

Approval of previous minutes July 29, 2025

Susan made a motion to approve, John seconded. Minutes were approved with amendments. Amended minutes issued 9/1/25.

Thrift Store Update: Eileen Carrara

Eileen discussed the attached report.

Finance: Joe Mulino

Joe discussed the attached report.

Draft of 2026 budget will be provided by September vestry meeting.

Motion by Steve to approve Joe's proposal of transferring \$50,000.00 from Thrift Store account to church account. Alison seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Audit Committee

Report will be provided this week to vestry. Vestry needs to approve this week in order to submit to the diocese by September 1st.

Junior Warden

Buildings and Ground Committee formed.

Discussion of current situation of mold, remediation, insurance, weekly communication to the congregation, etc.

Senior Warden

Discussion of Stewardship program – "Tell Out My Soul".

Rector

Rev. Jenny discussed the attached report.

Deb volunteered to be a replacement delegate for upcoming diocese meeting. **An alternate is still needed.**

The Holy Cow (see Rector Report) assessment will be \$470. General agreement within vestry to pursue assessment but timing needs to be defined so as not to conflict with mold and holidays but needs to occur before snowbirds return north next spring. **Topic to be revisited next vestry meeting.**

Attendance of Iona-Hope parishioners is low at the services held at St. Hilary. Approximately 15 at each of the two weekend services.

Life

Steve presented the attached report.

Vestry agreed that Iona-Hope should not give yearly \$2,000.00 contribution to Life right now. **This is to be revisited at a vestry meeting later this year based on developments within Life.**

VESTRY REPORTS AUGUST 2025

Rector's Report—Mother Jenny

Updates:

It is with gratitude and joy that I can announce the person who has graciously accepted my invitation to serve as Senior Warden for 2026: Marcia Leidig. Marcia will begin working with Paula Paquette for a smooth transition. I'm grateful to both women for their wonderful commitment to God and to Iona-Hope.

The bishop has reached out and asked that I consider co-chairing the diocesan committee on Race and Reconciliation with the vision of expanding its purpose. After prayerful consideration I have accepted. I will be meeting next week with the bishop and the current co-chairs to discuss this transition.

I have also begun work with my new clergy coach, as well as meeting with the Diocesan Consultant with Holy Cow.

The Holy Cow Consultant suggesting Iona Hope takes the CAT itinerary, changing the focus of the questions asked compared to last time. This will give us quantifiable empirical data of where we are at and where we need to focus our energy and work as we can grow. We will need to pay for the assessment but the work that she will then do with us to interpret and apply is covered by what the diocese pays. **Discussion needed.**

Diocesan Dates to Consider:

Sept 13 - Race and Reconciliation Training Day (St Mary's, Bonita Springs)

Oct 10-11 - Convention (Charlotte Harbor Conference Center, Punta Gorda) *This is open to all. Friday is primarily open sessions and workshops. Saturday is the business stuff. I think it would be great to get more Iona-Hope folks making the trip on Friday. Who's got a minivan?*

Treasurer's Report—Joe Mulino

Recap of Financial Statements— July 2025—Respectfully submitted. Joe.

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
400300 Contributions-Pledged	\$ 15,435	\$ 38,578
400301 Contributions-Non Pledge	\$ 3,566	\$ 2,375
400500 Contributions-Plate	\$ 294	\$ 469
400700 Special Contributions	\$ 1,000	\$ 0
 Total Contributions Revenue-July	 \$ 20,295	 \$ 41,422
Total Other Revenue-July.	\$ 570	\$ 225
Total Pass thru Revenue-July .	\$ 1,635	\$ 460
Total Revenue- July.	\$ 22,501	\$ 42,107
Total Expenses-July.	\$ 52,188	\$ 33,300
Net Income/Loss-July.	\$ 29,687	\$ 8,807
 Year to Date Income	 \$ 355,696	 \$329,018
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 354,381	\$300,534
Year to Date Net Income/Loss	\$ 1,316	\$ 28,484
Year to Date Contributions-Pledged	\$ 201,722	\$228,746
Year to Date Contributions-		
Non-Pledged	\$ 25,242	\$ 62,344
Year to Date Contributions- Plate	\$ 5,492	\$ 6,290
Year to Date Special Contributions	\$ 54,673	\$ 1,215
 Year to Date Total Contributions	 \$ 287,129	 \$298,595

Recap of Financial Statement July 2025—Thrift Store Account

<u>THRIFT STORE RECAP-July. 2025</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Revenue Income – July.	\$ 30,338	\$ 27,013
Interest Income-Money Mkt-July	\$ 455	\$ 0
Total Revenue-July	\$ 30,793	\$ 27,013
Total Expenses – July.	\$ 83,241	\$ 72,330
Net Income/Lose-July	\$ 52,448	\$ 45,318
Year to Date Income	\$ 287,998	\$261,563
Year to Date Interest Income	\$ 3,181	\$ 0
Total YTD Income	\$ 291,179	\$261,563
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 270,554	\$245,205
Year to Date Net Income/Loss	\$ 20,625	\$ 16,358

DISCUSSION/UPDATES

Discussion and obtain Vestry approval to draw down \$15,000 from our LOC with FCB in conjunction with costs relating to the Mold Remediation with balance coming from the Thrift Store.

Review & Discussion of the 1st draft of our 2026 Budget for the Church and Thrift Store (Draft will be sent out prior to our meeting on Aug.26th)

Interfaith Report—Margaret Carr

August Interfaith Update

The **Interfaith Group** met on Thursday August 14th at Temple Judea. We had Seventeen people attend in person and four on Zoom. The group is now led by Paul Cornez of Temple Judea, Bill Zeeb of Cypress Lake UMC and myself.

Our next discussion will be held **Wednesday September 17th at 7pm at Temple Beth El, located at 16225 Winkler Rd Fort Myers.**

Our next topic will be “**Origins-How did it all begin?**” Where did the universe come from? Where did humans come from? Was I created (versus evolved)? How did the world get to be like it is today (assuming it started with the big bang?) Implied in these questions is do we believe in a creator/intelligent design or evolution or some combination of the two or something else?

Temple Beth El will be creating the September meeting flyer with the Zoom info which I will forward to the congregation as soon as I receive it.

On another note, I reached out to my Interfaith friends to get help finding alternative locations for our **Iona-Hope** small groups to meet temporarily while work is being done on our buildings. I received immediate responses of offers to help.

Rabbi Luna at **Temple Beth El** reached out to **Mother Jenny** and offered space for the weekly Wednesday morning Eucharist service.

If there are any other groups that need space, **Cypress Lake UMC** will check their availability, and if there is any space free on a specific day and time, they are also willing to help us out.

I am incredibly thankful for the friendships and bonds I have formed with our neighbors of faith. I continue to encourage members of the vestry to join us for one of our future meetings. They are truly informative.

Peace & Love!

Margaret

LIFE Update—Steve Walsh

LIFE Justice Ministry

Key takeaways from the August Board meeting from the meeting notes.

The board approved continuing Andy Lee's consulting services for 3 days per month (1 day covered by DART, 2 days to be paid by LIFE at \$500/day)

A Rethinking Justice Workshop event was approved for October 28th to have speakers and a follow-up causes, one type will be to re-engage current members and encourage pledges/investments, and the other type will be to allow new congregations to discuss joining LIFE

The financial report showed that congregational dues and individual investments are significantly below budget and last year's figures

Current cash position is \$41,723, with IRS penalties of approximately \$34,500 still pending resolution

A planning committee was formed for the October 28th event, including Pastor Mary Stockton, Dr. Rickey Anderson, Dotty Morrison, and Lorna Washington

Bishop Lafayette Scales will be invited as a guest speaker for the October 28th event.

Steve's notes:

Finances continue to be an issue. Some parishes are holding back donations until the IRS dispute is resolved, which seems prudent. Hiring a lead organizer has been pushed out to mid-2026, and the next possible date for a Nehemiah Action is in the spring of 2027. I am at a loss as to how to re-engage the parish because the organization seems to be shrinking despite the continued efforts of several committed pastors. I personally want to step aside by the end of this calendar year.

Thrift Store Report—Eileen Carrara

IONA HOPE ONE MORE TIME THRIFT STORE - Manager's Meeting—Friday, August 8, 2025

Attending: Store Manager Eileen Carrara; Day Managers Barb Belmont, Bob Earl, Gail Hamlet, Larry Hanson, Doris Leary, Eric Leary, Andrea Thom, and Rector Jenny Scott-Jones

Mother Jenny opened the meeting at 9:00 am with a prayer.

Eileen presented the monthly sales report, as well as the year-to-date report. She pointed out that the year-to-date sales are the highest they have been since the store opened in 2021.

Eileen gave an update on the 2025 grants, reporting a distribution of \$61,764 which included the postage to ship twenty-two boxes to South Dakota. Grant recipients are recognized on the store power point and, since we have received many letters of appreciation from recipients, they have been framed and are on easels in front of the store.

Eileen reported that tagging supplies are nearly doubling in price. She suggested SLIGHTLY adjusting our merchandise pricing and everyone agreed.

Eileen reported that the Church recently underwent an audit and, of course, this audit included the Thrift Store. The current procedures were approved, particularly our closing procedures. However, it was requested that these procedures be put in writing and presented to the Vestry at the next meeting.

One of our volunteers recently passed away and her son suggested memorial contributions be made to the Thrift Store that his mother dearly loved. To date \$105. Has been received and deposited and Eileen has sent acknowledgements.

One of our volunteers, who is a member of Iona Hope Episcopal Church, sent Eileen an email suggesting that volunteers at the Store initiate conversations about the Church and that a slip of paper with the Church name, address and service hours, be placed in each merchandise bag. After a discussion, the day managers unanimously agreed NOT to implement this suggestion, citing the fact that Church brochures and the power point presentation are in plain sight. Eileen pointed out that, on occasion, customers may ask about the church, and, at that time, the volunteer could and should engage in conversation. Mother Jenny asked if flyers, posters, etc., promoting Church events could be put in and around the store. The answer was a unanimous "YES."

A volunteer expressed a concern about pets, primarily dogs, in the store. After a discussion, it was agreed that we will not restrict dogs from the store; however, offering dog treats should be discouraged.

Eileen reported that as she is preparing merchandise for the coming Fall and Christmas seasons, it is obvious that we have more merchandise than in past years and she may be asking volunteers to work with her on a few Sundays.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 with a closing prayer led by Mother Jenny.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, September 5, 2026.