

**IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Minutes of the Vestry**  
**October 29, 2024 @ 3:30 PM**

**Rector:**

The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones

**Vestry Members:**

Paula Paquette – Senior Warden (Zoom)

Alison Kinch – Junior Warden (Zoom)

Rob Ricca

Steve Walsh

John Mitchell (Zoom)

Debbie Prather

Marcia Leidig

Linda Griffin

Joe Mulino – **Treasurer**

Thom Price – **Assistant to the Treasurer** (Zoom)

Eileen Carrara – **Thrift Store Manager**

Margaret Carr – **Media Director**

Marnie Ike – **Parish Administrator** (Zoom)

Wanda Adler – **Office Volunteer**

Victoria Lines – **Clerk to the Vestry**

**Guests:**

Ken & Donna Owens

Susan Crawford

**Opening Prayers & Concerns:**

Mother Jenny opened the meeting at 3:30 pm with prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Vestry Meeting Minutes for September 24, 2024.

Motion to approve, Steve.

Second, Linda.

All in favor.

### **Thrift Store Update: Eileen Carrara**

Joe and Eileen have held discussions regarding Reserve Funds.

Eileen suggests increasing reserve from \$20,000 to \$25,000 a month and holding 6 months of a reserve, which would be a total of \$150,000.

Per Joe's suggestion, a separate savings account will be opened at the end of 2024 and the account funded beginning January 1, 2025.

Motion to approve, Linda.

Second, Rob.

All in favor.

Eileen and Mother Jenny have held discussions regarding frequency of Grants (perhaps adding more than just once a year). After greater consideration, Eileen and Mother Jenny have agreed that additional Grants beyond once a year be awarded on "as need" basis.

If/when a charity should approach during the year, it will be presented to the Vestry for further discussion.

Day Springs sponsoring children:

There are three, 3-day sessions (6 sessions total) for six children to attend starting in June and ending in July.

The average cost is \$420 per child for the 3-day session, but we may be able to send more as Day Springs offers scholarships.

If we can do it, the parent would pay \$140, the church would pay \$140, and the Diocese would do a scholarship for \$140. We will reach out for forms, pick the students, and apply for scholarships. If approved, we may be able to send more than six students.

A budget item will be created, per Joe (\$2,500 allocation out of Thrift Store 2025 budget).

Motion to approve, Linda.

Second, Steve.

All in favor.

Eileen reported that the Thrift Store is currently understaffed.

This presents challenges this time of year (pricing Black Friday).

She currently has 50 containers of new merchandise that needs to be tagged. Following the event, Eileen wishes permission to take volunteers to lunch or a light dinner and charged to Thrift Store account.

All in favor.

A Christmas party will be held in the Store the first week in December (Publix catered). It will be paid through the Thrift Store account, and staff is included/invited to attend.

No motion required.

Sales have been holding steady. Eileen is seeing fewer people, but more donations (possibly indicating that people may be leaving).

### **Discussion/Finance:**

#### Finance Committee - Joe Mulino

The financial report was emailed to Vestry prior to this meeting.

Joe requests that beginning November 1, 2024, to take 1/3 of Marnie's monthly salary from the Thrift Store (\$1,056) and move into our operating account to pay Marnie.

Motion to approve, Rob.

Second, Linda.

All in favor.

Operation funds:

Operating account balance for the church is currently \$3,800.

Joe requests that on November 1, 2024, he withdraw \$30,000 from the First Citizens Bank Line of Credit. This will satisfy November's budget.

Motion to approve, Steve.

Second, Rob.

All in favor.

Eileen & Joe have discussed The Thrift Store has already allocated \$20,000 this year, but Joe may request Vestry approval in November that \$30,000 from the Thrift store be moved into the Operating Fund in December to cover expenses.

Motion pending.

## 2025 Budget Review:

The first draft of the 2025 Budget was presented and updated line item by line item with Vestry input/agreement.

Joe will present the revised budget for Vestry approval in November.

## Services/Schedules – Mother Jenny

The Bishop visits Iona-Hope:

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Frederick Scharf, Presiding Bishop Of The Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida, will be visiting us here at Iona-Hope on Sunday November 17<sup>th</sup>.

We will be gathering as one congregation Sunday morning at the 9:30 A.M. service. We will not be having the 5:00 P.M. service on Saturday evening November 16<sup>th</sup> or the 8:00 A.M. service on Sunday morning November 17<sup>th</sup>. A reception will be held following the service in the Gathering Place.

Thanksgiving Eve service:

There will be an evening service Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 P.M. There will be “Thanksgiving” ingathering of the pledges. The pledges will be blessed during the service and then have a Pie Share celebration afterwards in the Gathering Place.

Advent Greening of the Church:

December 22<sup>nd</sup>. More information to follow.

Christmas Eve service:

Paper Bag Pageant event at 5:00 P.M.

Candlelight service at 8:00 P.M.

More information to follow.

Christmas Day service:

Christmas service at 9:30 A.M.

More information to follow.

Stewardship:

Fillable forms mailed out.

Paper copies are in the back of the Sanctuary.

Pledge cards will be gathered Thanksgiving Eve.

It was suggested that there be a follow up after the campaign has ended.

## **Announcements/Upcoming/Programs:**

### Interfaith Ministry – Margaret Carr

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14th at 7:00 P.M.  
It's being held at Cypress Lake United Methodist.

### LIFE (Lee Interfaith for Empowerment) – Steve Walsh

This year, LIFE is without a lead organizer.

The board has decided that there will be no Nehemiah action this Spring. The focus will be on rebuilding teams. They suggested that in November, they have a meeting to celebrate what LIFE has accomplished. Date TBD. The emphasis will be inviting as many people as possible, but also to ask for commitments to become members to LIFE on an ongoing basis.

## **Discussion/Reports:**

### Junior Warden's Report: Alison Kinch

The following report was provided:

“Note: Hurricanes Helene (Sept 26 – 30) and Milton (Oct 6 -10) affected our location, causing evacuations, flooding and general disruption. At the time of reporting, there is no damage to the facility.

Font update – Keystone needs to pour a couple of pieces to replace those that were damaged during the deconstruction. They should be done this week. Keystone will then coordinate with Hallett to complete the rebuild.

The parking lot lights are being obstructed by the trees.

I have a quote from Timber Tree for \$1600 to do this.

The lights outside the Gathering Place need to be looked at / replaced.

Possibly solar / motion sensor lights would be best. The new cameras might serve dual purpose as camera and lights.

Cameras – have been charged. They can be installed as soon as Hallett is available.

Keys / locks for the Gathering Place. Rob Lowder has replaced the lock at the south end of the Gathering Place (by the Labyrinth). New keys have been made.

Scott from Kingdom Roofing has indicated that there needs to be guttering put in along the office wall where the office entry door is located, otherwise it will cause more problems in future years. He has also worked through all of the invoices and payments from the insurance company and will be sending them to me and to Marnie along with the proposal for the guttering. Not yet received.”

#### Senior Warden's Report: Paula Paquette

Paula expressed that she sees great momentum of all categories of everything moving forward right now. She thanked everyone for participating in a myriad of projects, directions, and planning. She suggests opening up Iona-Hope opportunities to inspire vitality of community/church.  
More discussion to follow.

#### Rector Report: The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones

Lighting update:

Mother Jenny requests Vestry approval for Lighting Expenditure (funded through donations).

Motion to approve, Rob.

Second, Linda.

All in favor.

Community Events:

Mother Jenny requests that we form a community events planning committee. This would be a group that would brainstorm different ideas on how to make best use of our grounds that engages the wider community.

Also looking for individuals to help with planning, etc.

Rob offered to participate with brainstorming as well Eileen and Linda.

Additional note regarding Bishop's visit:

The Bishop will like to meet with Vestry only during his visit.

Mother Jenny will coordinate with the Bishop as to timing.

There will be a reception to follow the 9:30 A.M. service and Rob, Joe, Eileen, and Linda volunteered to arrange a light breakfast to be held in the Gathering Place.

Marcia volunteered to be the Vestry focal for future kitchen events going forward.

Meeting ended at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Victoria Lines, Clerk of the Vestry