

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church  
Minutes of the Vestry  
January 11, 2021

**Attendees:**

The Reverend Ray Buchanan ✓

**Vestry Members:**

Joe Mulino, Senior Warden ✓

Patricia Ingram, Junior Warden ✓

Ray Zentis ✓

Bob Earl ✓

Alison Kinch ✓

Kathie Hart ✓

Andi Jerger ✓

**Guests - Persons of Interest:**

Eileen Carrara, Thrift Shop Manager ✓

Debbie Prather, Treasurer ✓

John Thomas, Assistant to the Treasurer ✓

Paula Paquette, Clerk of the Vestry ✓

Ken Owens and Donna Owens, Sextons ✓

**Guests:** Douglass Lind, Consultant ✓  
Kathleen Ulm and Rob Ricca ✓

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

Prayers are invited for celebrations, intercessions, ourselves, others. Prayers were offered for numerous concerns. Thanksgiving for cool weather.

**INFORMATION**

**Approval of Minutes** – Motion Joe Mulino, Second Bob Earl, to approve previous minutes of December 14. All in favor.

**Group Ministries** – No reports at this time.

**Announcements** – No announcements at this time.

We will need three volunteers for the video after the meeting. Kathie, Ray, Deb, thank you. We still do not have someone identified to serve as Clerk after January. Vestry was asked if they can identify someone.

**Visitor Comments** – None at this time.

**DISCUSSION**

**Senior Warden Report**

Joe Mulino, Senior Warden

Thanks to Alison, Kathie, and others for assistance with decorating the tree and church and then undecorating after Christmas. This is Joe's last meeting as Senior Warden. He has been on the Vestry for nine years. It has been a wonderful experience. Joe thanks everyone.

Everyone thanks Joe. He looks forward to continuing to serve the church. After the annual meeting, Debbie Prather is stepping down as Treasurer. John Thomas is stepping down as Assistant to the Treasurer. Joe Mulino will become the Treasurer. Bella Tousignant will become the Assistant to the Treasurer.

**Vestry Consultation**

Doug Lind, consultant

I think the most important thing is to have someone who really owns the role of incorporating people into the church. The role of assimilation. The places who have someone besides the Rector or the Associate Rector doing this works really well. This is

best served by a lay person who really tracks someone through their roles in the church. Most people get lost within a church within the first 12 months, if they don't get asked to do something. Having a person to recruit volunteers for the needs of a church is very helpful.

### **Invite, Welcome, Connect**

Kathie Hart, Chair, Invite, Welcome, Connect

A meeting of I-W-C will be held later this month again. Kathie will approach Marnie Ike to talk about how the nametags can be utilized to keep track of who is here. We need to also figure out who is not here using a nametag so that they can be kept in the loop and in participation with the church. Small groups are also a great place to keep people involved and to keep the communication going well. One aspect of small groups is that people can be just exactly who they are in their small groups, not needing to act a part or act any certain way. Small groups are a nurturing place.

### **Festive Reopening**

Gathering Hope – A Celebration with Food, Fun, Family, and Faith. Plans are still underway. Are we still able to move ahead with February 20? Yes. It is outside so it is safe. We will move ahead with getting all the plans done and people assigned to tasks.

### **Thrift Store Update**

Eileen Carrara, Thrift Shop Manager

Things are going really well. We are lagging behind a bit this month in revenue. Due probably to a lack of furniture available to sell. More furniture donations would move the sales ahead. Nonetheless, people are coming in and looking for a lot of other things. We did \$1,200 today. A lot of that was clothing. Furniture donations are welcome.

### **Re-Opening Timeline (Worship and Groups)**

We need to see the ER's and hospitals a little less full before we start serving food indoors. It would seem not responsible for us to add to the burden of the hospitals by doing any further group socializing like coffee hours. There are lengthy waits at the ER right now. We need to be responsive to what's happening. Maybe part of our guidelines is that once the hospitals are in better shape, we can reconsider food inside. What we need to be looking at is continuing uncertainty. Uncertainty is a part of what's happening. Do we need to require masks? Perhaps not. Most people did wear masks at services. Strongly recommending masks seems to be working.

### **Annual Meeting**

Annual Meeting will be the last Sunday of January (30<sup>th</sup>), 11 am, after the 9:30 am service. Please plan to be here. It is a celebration of where we have been and conversation about where we are going.

### **Vestry Election**

We are proposing the presentation of a slate of three persons to serve on Vestry to the annual meeting – Kathy Ulm, Rob Ricca, and Paula Paquette. We are proposing that the following three persons serve as delegates to Convention: Kathleen Ulm, Rob Ricca, and Joe Mulino. Bob Earl volunteered to serve as Alternate delegate. Paula Paquette is already a voting member of the Convention by virtue of serving on Diocesan Council.

April 2 is the first time delegates will need to serve because we will elect the Bishop. Delegates would also take part in the walkabout when candidates are presented to the Diocese for our consideration. The second time for delegates to serve will be mid-October. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of January, a list of persons under consideration to serve as Bishop will be announced.

Those who are presenting reports at Annual Meeting, please get them in.

Continuing development of Small Group ministries is critical for us. Continuing the work of Invite-Welcome-Connect is so important for us also.

Father Ray cited three areas of critical importance for this upcoming year that we will hopefully focus on. They all relate to resource development.

The three areas of resource development that we need to focus on this year include:

1. Financial Resources. We need to try to draw in more reserve for our finances. Otherwise, we will be drawn into a bad situation. We do have the line of credit, but better not to have to use it. Stewardship. We need to develop and implement a stronger Stewardship program. It has fallen to staff mostly in the last two years. We need volunteers handling it. And we need it to be impactful.
2. Person Resources. We need to focus on personnel. We can make this a time to start to think about what we wish to do future. Marnie Ike has suggested her job be split into two positions. We also should think about increasing interest in people serving on the Vestry. Vestry elections used to be a matter of people competing to get onto the Vestry. We need to develop a way for increasing interest in volunteering. We need to be deliberate about that.
3. Community Connections. We need to increase our community connection resources. We need to be more involved with community and in seeking community connections with us.

We need a Clerk. A person willing to serve has still not been identified.

We hope to schedule a retreat, possibly in February. We can make the retreat a time to incorporate the new Vestry members onto the Vestry. We would probably meet Friday evening and Saturday again. We can use the same location we used before (in Cape Coral). We are looking into it.

Looking at the line of credit, we may actually wish to use it. The bank was reticent to reissue the line of credit this year because we have not used it. We can use the line of credit and then pay it right back.

A director of volunteers would be useful. The Thrift Shop is a great place to meet and get to know people.

Maybe after this year, we can look at going someplace like DaySpring for Vestry retreat. For now, let's be local.

### **Finance Committee Changes**

Not discussed at this time.

### **New Capital Campaign**

Not discussed at this time.

### **Strategic Planning**

Not discussed at this time.

### **Mardi Gras**

Not discussed at this time.

## **DECISIONS**

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

A financial report was emailed ahead of the meeting together with preliminary financials. Expenses were high in December because of the audiovisual expenditures. Maintenance was high because of the exterior lights being done. We are in the red for the end of the year. The accountant will look at everything soon. \$7,000 was received in response to the end of the year letter. That's about average. We are \$2,483 ahead of last year in pledges. Almost \$322,000 has been pledged this year. This is above last year. Congratulations to the Thrift Shop for a record-breaking December. The Finance Committee recommends that we transfer \$6,000 rather than \$4,000 from the Thrift Store to the operating account. This is a motion as it comes from committee. Second, Bob Earl. All in favor. This covers payroll and the balance is attributed to the monies the Thrift Store used from church funds to open. The Thrift Store has \$90,000 on hand. The church does not. Our credit line is \$45,000. Joe Mulino makes a motion to be able to use the Citizens line of credit to pay the current audio video expenses from the line of credit. Second, Bob Earl. All in favor. It has been an honor

and a privilege to serve as your Treasurer. The Vestry expressed its most sincere thanks to Deb Prather for her service.

### **Junior Warden Report**

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

A report was given by the Junior Warden. Lights, faucet, irrigation were completed recently. We currently do not have a maintenance program for the roof of The Gathering Place. We are trying to get it in place. We lost a projector on Sunday. The second one looks a little dim. Father Ray called the AV company and, hopefully, the new equipment will be shipped within two weeks. Maybe, maybe earlier. With Patti Ingram stepping off of Vestry, we will need a new Junior Warden. It will be a responsibility of the Vestry to elect a new Junior Warden at the February meeting.

Thank you to everyone for all the good work you are doing! This year looks to be a great year for Iona-Hope. We are going in a good direction. We will firm things up and continue even stronger into our future!

**Closing Prayers** – Father Ray.

**Vestry agenda completed 5:37 pm.**

### ***Adjournment***

***Respectfully submitted,  
Paula Paquette, Clerk***