

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry
July 13, 2021

Attendees:

The Reverend Ray Buchanan ✓

Vestry Members:

Joe Mulino, Senior Warden ✓

Patricia Ingram, Junior Warden *excused with regrets*

Ray Zentis ✓

Bob Earl ✓

Alison Kinch ✓

Kathie Hart ✓

Andi Jerger *excused with regrets*

Guests - Persons of Interest:

The Reverend Suzy Post ✓

John Thomas Assistant Treasurer ✓

Eileen Carrara, Thrift Shop Manager *excused with regrets*

Debbie Prather, Treasurer ✓

Paula Paquette, Clerk of the Vestry ✓

Guest: Douglass Lind, Consultant ✓

Opening Concerns and Prayers – Father Ray Buchanan

OPENING DISCUSSION

Father Ray Buchanan

Update on where we are and any concerns that the Vestry may have. We host an AA meeting on Tuesday evening. Also, one on Friday evenings and Saturday morning. There is another on Wednesday mornings that meets outside. The OA meeting on Wednesday and the Al-Anon meeting on Friday evenings have not resumed yet. We are speaking with one group about possibly changing their night to facilitate space use. There have been various issues with our space which has affected our ability to host groups and do our own activities. We now have acquired enough equipment to do a very good Zoom meeting from within the church. We have the equipment, but Internet access was an issue. It has been repaired now. The lightning Saturday night probably took out the server. It is fixed. Some face to face pastoral care has resumed. Our pastors are visiting one family only per day with one day in between. They have also started to take communion to people who cannot attend. Bread only, safe practices. Father Ray starts his vacation this coming Monday. He will be out a month. Mother Suzy will be on vacation for two weeks immediately following Father Ray's time away. Discussion about whether a Vestry meeting could be held in the library. Possibly so. Can get a little stuffy, but, yes. We have asked groups that want to start meeting, to contact the office. Book club membership has been contacted. Small group leaders meeting, we hope to start back with when we can have food, when we can have a speaker, etc. The positivity rate in Lee County went to 6 percent now. We are exercising some caution related to small group activities and scheduling.

INFORMATION

Approval of Minutes – Motion Joe Mulino, Second Bob Earl, to approve previous minutes of June 8 as revised. All in favor.

Group Ministries – None at this time.

Announcements – None at this time.

Visitor Comments – No visitors attending.

DISCUSSION

Senior Warden Report

Joe Mulino, Senior Warden

The Thrift Shop is doing very, very well. Ended month of June with \$17,030. The Thrift Shop is deeply in need of furniture to sell. Thanks to Eileen Carrara and all the volunteers. They are doing so well. Senior Warden Joe reached out to the bank to extend our line of credit. He does not have their requirements for documentation yet. The line of credit we have expires on August 27.

Vestry Consultation

Doug Lind, consultant

One item to talk about. Churches around the country are figuring out a number of ways to celebrate being back open again. They are doing all sorts of things. They are calling people. They are throwing a party. It really seems to be making a difference for those people who are being celebratory. Doug wanted to raise that to our thinking. Invite Welcome Connect did talk about doing something. Kathie Hart read an article on the concept of group joy. It spreads quickly when we share joy. It can be so wonderful for a community of faith to spread and share joy. September is being talked about as a possible time to celebrate. The recommendation was made to thank the volunteers at church who showed up every week through the pandemic to help. They were heroic. We also need to remember all those we have lost. For the November 1 All Saints service, we really need to remember those lost to the pandemic or during the pandemic. Should we try for September? October? Maybe October which will give us time to plan and implement. We could ask Invite Welcome Connect to serve as the committee to do a celebration (working with clergy). We need to include the Saturday 5:00 Sunday 8:00 and Sunday 9:30 worship communities in whatever we do.

Invite, Welcome, Connect

Kathie Hart, Chair, Invite, Welcome, Connect

All the Small Group Leaders have been contacted that they can schedule their activities with the office. We may need to figure out ways to move from rest and summer schedule to reconvening activities. A first IWC meeting was held IN PERSON. It was a great meeting. Each group was at one table each. They did great. They were attentive and engaged in the conversations. The group will work on a festive reopening for October. What used to be the Compass construction office has been converted into a children's chapel. Thank you to Kathie Hart, Ray Zentis, and Patty Ingram for doing this. It is wonderful.

Thrift Store Update

Eileen Carrara, Thrift Shop Manager

Please see above for report under Senior Warden's report.

Finance Committee Changes

Not discussed at this time.

Diocesan Convention Delegates

Not discussed at this time.

Stewardship

There is a half day Stewardship conference this year. A few people at Iona Hope are going to attend. We need to start working on a budget for the next year. Marnie Ike will start working on a preliminary soon. The big issue about our budget is always salaries. Treasurer suggests that Vestry needs to think about staff salaries, either with the clergy present or not, but the Vestry needs to think about that item. It will be discussed in September.

New Capital Campaign

Not discussed at this time.

Strategic Planning

Not discussed at this time.

Mardi Gras 2021 Recipient

Not discussed at this time.

DECISIONS

Finance Committee, Deb Prather

A financial report was emailed ahead of the meeting together with preliminary financials as well as a draft of a letter to be sent to the congregation as a “financial ask”. We did progress to having \$9,000 less in deficit than was shown last month. There is still a deficit, but it was less. We can send said letter and the giving statements by email. We then know who did not open it via email and then a hard copy of the statement and the letter are sent to the persons. Treasurer Debbie said she received a capital campaign brochure and request from her Pennsylvania church which was really nice. Treasurer Debbie suggested we might consider a capital campaign ask sometime soon for the following items: \$60,000 for the AC units in church (\$30k each), \$30,000 for digital projectors, some amount of money for completion of liturgical hangings in the church and vestments to complete our liturgical colors, probably \$7,000-8,000 needed for that, plus \$100,000 to be placed in savings. The savings would help us to manage through difficult times better. This is a suggestion from the Treasurer to perhaps run this campaign this winter when people are here. The campaign can be done in house completely. We do not need to get talent or consultation from outside the church. We seem to need someone to be appointed as Stewardship Chair. We probably should start this soon, especially as a lead into the Christmas season. The search for a Stewardship chair is underway behind the scenes. The Stewardship event will help support this also. The salary for the Thrift Shop manager will be switching over to the Thrift Shop account from the church account forthwith. It will be helpful to know what the break even amount for the Thrift Shop in a given month will be. That will be good to know. We are receiving our last check of the PPP funds tomorrow. Father Ray will pick it up.

Junior Warden Report

Patricia Ingram, Junior Warden

A written report was emailed ahead of the meeting from Junior Warden Patricia Ingram. The roof over Mother Suzy’s office had a leak. A roofer that looked at it said it was not covered well. Another roofer is looking at it soon. The leak created a mess in Mother Suzy’s office. There has been an ongoing issue with AC units in the clergy offices. Also in the Gathering Place. We are replacing the thermostat in the Gathering Place. We think that will solve the problem. We are making a checklist for groups using the Gathering Place as to instructions for how to leave the temperature after they are done meeting.

Closing Prayers – Father Ray. Thank you all for everything you do for Iona Hope, because, in doing it for the church, you do it for the community.

Vestry agenda completed 5:50 pm.

Adjournment