

IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Minutes of the Vestry
February 28, 2023

Vestry Members:

Paula Paquette, Sr. Warden,

Alison Kinch, Jr. Warden

Kathie Hart

Kathy Ulm

Rob Ricca

Patty Ingram

Steve Walsh

Linda Griffin, Clerk to the Vestry

Joe Mulino, Treasurer

Absent: Bella Tousignant, Assistant Treasurer

Guests/Persons of Interest:

Fr. Doug Lind, Vestry Consultant

Ken and Donna Owens

Eileen Carrara

Opening Concerns & Prayers:

Senior Warden Paula Paquette opened the meeting at 5:00 P.M. with An Order of Worship for the Evening Vestry Meeting. All present were asked for any prayers/celebrations.

Information:

Senior Warden Paula let us know we had a lot to cover tonight and went through the Agenda for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Vestry Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2023.

Paula asked if there were any questions or comments, there was one.

Motion made to approve January 2023 Minutes by Kathie, seconded by Rob and approved as submitted.

Minutes for the Annual Parish Meeting, January 29, 2023.

Paula asked if there were any questions or comments, there was one.

Motion made to approve Annual Parish Meeting Minutes by Kathie, seconded by Rob and approved.

Group Ministries:

Service of Remembrance - Kathie said Fr. Swift would help. Circle of Hope or Circle of Care. We must have the family's permission to mention them by name. Paula asked if anyone wanted to take charge and craft a Service of Remembrance. Kathie was going to take it back to the Circle of Hope.

The people on the Welcome Desk have been doing a great job.

Prayers for the new people coming to our church is going well Thank you Kathie.

We have started "Passing the Plate" at the Sunday 9:30 Service and they will start on Saturday.

Lenton Study Groups - Kathie

Thrift Store Report:

The store set another record in February, \$43,000. They are looking at the Grants they are going to give out this year. It was decided that the 1st Grant will be given to Iona Hope to replace the Air Conditioner's in the office.

They will be giving out \$45,000 in grants this year, \$20,000 to the church and \$25,000 to others. Eileen will give Linda B an application for the grant.

Volunteer Luncheon is at 2:00 on March 26, and she would really love it if the Vestry would also be there.

Vestry Consultant – Fr. Doug Lind

How is the worship going? Very well, more people than we have had in a long while were at church this last Sunday. Of the different Preachers, how are you explaining to them how we work? The answer is we do not. We know if we have someone preaching more than once a year they must be licensed as a Guest Preacher. We understand if a preacher is celebrating Eucharist or leading one of our services that they must be licensed by the Diocese and approved so to do. We had some fill ins to avoid certain disaster, but we believe we will not need to fill in now and will be running through the Supply list. Rev. Colleen Tully is in the final stages of her licensing or approval whatever you call it, and she is meeting with the Bishop on Thursday. Paula will speak with the Rev. John Danner about getting licensed to Preach. There was a retired Clergy who was a Chalice bearer on Ash Wednesday, and Paula does not know if he will need to get approval or not. Paula believes that Fr. John Swift, Fr. John Gamble and Fr. John Adler are all three approved.

Fr. Lind's take on the early days in the new diocese administration looks to him like it will be on the side of making sure all rules are followed, and if that is the case, we may want to look at some other things.

Like writing a Customary, a Customary shows the order of service. It shows the order of the service. Fr. Lind suggested we might ask Fr. John Adler if he might write one. Paula also mentioned the fact that there are also words in our service that are not customary. Fr. Lind said that everyone knows that about this place. Fr. Lind thinks we are covered because we have been doing the service this way for a long time.

Junior Warden's Report: Alison Kinch

Please see Junior Warden's report attached.

Senior Report - Paula Paquette

Paula volunteered to send out Thank you notes to everyone who made Pledges.

Parochial Report - Information was gathered from many areas. The report needs to be filed online tomorrow, and Linda Babcock will do it. We need a motion to approve the final Parochial Report, Patty has made the motion to approve, Kathy Ulm second. The Report was very difficult to do and was reviewed by Finance and the Junior Warden. They ask for a lot of statistics that we do not keep. The process was sound, and the report is accurate. Alison asked what we could do to make it easier to do the report next year. Paula suggests we all take our Reports home and read them through and start thinking about what we can do to maintain. The finance is good, the service statistics are good. Joe mentioned that this report is actually brand new with additional stuff then had been in it before.

Diocesan Certificate - It has been signed by Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Clerk, and Treasurer. The Diocesan Certificate is a accounting of who is Clergy her, names and address of people, and the listing of the delegates for Convention. A motion was made by Alison to except, Rob seconded, and it was approved.

The Diocesan Report along with our budget, along with the audit form 2021.

Rental requests are being received and we typically ask for a \$100 donation for a meeting time. The Shell collectors of Sanibel were offering \$50, Paula said that would be fine. Hopefully we can generate A little income by doing that.

The book Mystical Hope, hopefully over the Summer we can start a Vestry Study.

Meeting with Bishop Doug Scharf and Cannon Richard Norman. Senior Warden and Junior Warden had a lovely drive to meet with the Bishop. They met with the Bishop for 1 hour, and stayed with the Canon to the Ordinary (CTO) who is the Diocesan deployment officer and the Chief of Staff for the Bishop. Paula was quite shocked by what they informed them of. The Bishops theme is wants people in the churches to understand The why of why we are here. Paula has no doubt of the Bishop's love for people. They have informed us that gone are the days when churches use a Interim for any extended period. We will not have a Interim we will move into a search process post haste. They feel it is better for the church to get on with it. For April 17 - 30, I will ask the hopefully newly licensed Mother Colleen Tully to be our Clergy of Supply because hopefully she will find herself on the Supply List. May 1 and forward Canon Norman has informed me that I need to learn to control my anxiety because it is too soon to ask who was going to be the new Clergy. They had a good conversation about doing a Clergy search. He estimates we can have a new Rector in the building by the fall. The quality of our Compensation availability puts us in the top echelons of being able to attract a Quality Clergy.

We were informed that we may need to change the insurance plan from single plus 1 to a family plan. He said our Compensation package puts us in a very good place. They like our budget numbers and appreciate the work that has been done. The actual search process is.....The CTO will schedule a meeting with the Vestry in March for a 2 hour meeting. Vestry will form 4 committees. Compensation committee is Senior Warden and Treasurer. We need someone to attend to the Website and the things we need to update on the Website so we are a little clearer on our Mission and who we are. He will talk to us about starting a self study, and Parish's that are searching for a Rector are asked use the Website Holy Cow. Please go home and look at Holy Cow the Consulting group which is now helping us to do our profile and gathering information about ourselves. Holy Cow is a private group and what they tell us there are 2 kinds of congregations, those that have leaders that have clarity about what they are called to do and how well they do, and the others do not. There are 8 steps to our Congregational Assessment Tool.

Concerns were voiced about people wanting to be on the Search Committee. The people must trust the process.

Vestry received and reviewed three pieces of correspondence from members of the parish.

The first was an email requesting the Vestry to consider adding onto its current number of seven to replenish the Vestry to its usual number of nine. The request was to move and vote in favor of appointing Mr. Bob Earl onto the Vestry. Upon discussion, it was decided that the Vestry would stay with its previous decision to remain the course with a seven-person Vestry pending a new Clergy person come on board serving us beginning in May and to allow that person to participate in and guide in any changes to the number of the Vestry. Discussion was positive and affirming.

The second correspondence was concerning Mrs. Deb Prather being name a Grande Dame by the PACE Center for Girls in Fort Myers. There is an awards luncheon upcoming in April at which she will be honored. A group of people from Iona-Hope will try to get tickets and tables so we can attend to cheer for Deb. Senior Warden will look into this.

The third piece of correspondence concerned a project being done by an Episcopal Church which is a shelter for transgender young persons. We will discuss this at a subsequent meeting.

Celebration for Fr. Ray, April 16. Someone from the Diocese will be here to do the leave taking. We should have a gift and then food after.

We also need to have a Thank you for Fr. McConnell.

Dees & Dees Audit Letter - Alison made a motion to approve, Patty seconded.

Finance Report - Joe Mulino

Finance report for January, no questions. The 2022 figures were not updated, they were August numbers. \$44,000. In budget we won't have to pay out. Stewardship, our pledges are up to \$302,064. The 9 people who have their money come out of their bank have not filled out new Pledge cards, but the money is still coming in to the, Joe will send them out letters. Still 25 are non responsive.

Meeting ended at 6:25pm with closing prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Griffin, Clerk of the Vestry

Junior Warden Report for Meeting Feb 28, 2023

Hurricane Ian – We are still waiting on a response from the contractor that was assigned to us. There was supposed to be a second inspection of the roof, but that has not yet happened. So, we wait.

There is a new mat in the gathering space

Power was out in Linda's office – Hallett was called and the problem was rectified.

Air Conditioner – quote from Conditioned Air. As we now have funding for this, we can move forward.

Note about heating the church – please don't turn the heating on unless absolutely necessary as it is very expensive to run.

Note about having the control of the heating / cooling in the church – JW Alison has the app on her phone that allows control of the a/c in the sanctuary. Patty should also have this.

Work Day March 21. A few people are needed.

Respectfully submitted

Alison Kinch, Junior Warden