

**Iona Hope Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry
March 8, 2022**

Attendees:

The Reverend Ray Buchanan

Vestry Members:

Ray Zentis

Bob Earl

Alison Kinch

Kathie Hart

Kathleen Ulm

Paula Paquette-Sr. Warden

Rob Ricca

Guests -Persons of Interest:

The Reverend Suzy Post, Excused

Eileen Carrara, Thrift Shop Manager

Joe Mulino-Treasurer

Bella Tousignant-Asst Treasurer, Excused

Ken and Donna Owens, Sextons

Guest: Doug Lind, Consultant

Andi Jerger

Opening Concerns & Prayers

Father Ray Buchanan

Prayers are invited for thanksgivings celebrations and intercessions.

Information

Approval of Minutes

Motion Bob Earl, Second Paula Paquette approve prior minutes of February 2022 all in favor

Group Ministries

Alison sent out the list of small groups and liaisons. The new vestry members were asked to review and claim any groups they may be interested in. Discussion regarding who would take what groups followed. Alison will bring updated list to next vestry meeting

Announcements

Ray indicated he had 3 announcements. 1) requested volunteers for pre-service video Joe and Alison agreed. 2) Ray has decided he will not take Sabbatical until 2023. Paula asked that the Vestry prayerfully commit to allowing him to take some additional time over and above his scheduled vacation time to be dedicated to some quiet and peaceful time during Lent and Advent. 3) reminder that we are in the process of electing a Bishop coadjutor, which is basically a Bishop in training. Bishop Smith is not retiring yet he is only turning 69 this year. Retirement age is not until 72. There are 4 nominees. There will be a walk about with the nominees at St. Mary's Bonita on 3/24 at 5:30, you will get 30 minutes with each candidate. On 4/2 there will be the election at the Cathedral in St. Petersburg, FL. Those results will determine if there will be an additional election.

No Visitor Comments at this time

Discussion

Senior Warden Report

Paula Paquette Senior Warden

Progress is abounding. We had a very successful picnic, Bishop visit and are looking forward to the Vestry retreat this weekend of the 11th and 12th. There will be a small group meeting next week. The Parish Administrator position in full swing being distributed on Facebook, Craigslist and the Diocesan site. The screen project is completed and fabulous. Paula is also interested in checking out cyber security as we bring more and more things online and digital.

Vestry Consultation

Doug Lind, consultant

Looking forward to the retreat.

Invite, Welcome, Connect

Kathie Hart, Chair, Invite, Welcome, Connect

Kathie started with the Parish Picnic follow-up. A survey after the picnic received very favorable feedback. Will look to reserve for next year. The donations covered most of the expenses. February is a good time of the year to do it. No exact count but at least 150 people were in attendance.

IWC- The National Digital conference was viewed online. The group was challenged to bring back how they felt the Holy Spirit was leading them in this ministry. Paula added that his was a fun group and ministry.

Father Ray shared a story of what happened this week at the church regarding a young mother and her 2 children that came over from the library to check out the font. They ended up coming back a couple times, Saturday evening they even joined the service inside at the rocking chair area and then she returned on Sunday with her husband. They received a welcome packet. Father Ray wanted to share the story that things are happening on a daily basis.

Thrift Store Update

Eileen Carrara, Thrift Shop Manager

Eileen shared there are 2 upcoming events in the works. First is OMT has been selected as a Mystery Thrifter destination. A busload of 60 people will come in to shop. She can't announce the date or time, it's a mystery. She will be putting together some door prizes and goodie bags for the occasion. The second event is planning the volunteer farewell end of season luncheon. this will be held at the Gathering Place last Sunday of April or 1st of May.

Re-Opening Timelines

Father Ray asked – "What say you?" and Bob Earl responded, "Let's do this." Kathie Hart commented that most people are determining their own comfort as far as masking etc. Masking can go back to the guidelines established pre-Omicron. Marnie should have that wording saved and we will post on doors. We will allow the Small Group Leaders and Liaisons to give the final yea or nay for their specific group. Coffee hour will resume with beverages only. Supper Club may resume, limiting numbers based on space. Ardis and Liaison can determine. Kathie mentioned that should something happen that we be prepared with a quick response. Father Ray added he had spoken to the Pastoral Care team that they could start up again but masking will be required. They can take the Host but still no wine.

Discussion of Office Staff Position

Father Ray indicated that this is moving forward.

Vestry Retreat and Book Study

Book study is moving ahead nicely. The Vestry retreat is the 11th and 12th at Paula's offices in Cape Coral. It will begin Friday evening at 6PM, dinner will be provided and will continue on Saturday at 8:30AM until approximately 2PM, lunch will be provided.

Commissioning

Father Ray would like to have the Vestry commissioned at each of the services. This is planned for the weekend of March 19th and 20th. All vestry should plan on attending each of the 3 services.

Decisions

Finance/Finance Committee/Budget

Joe Mulino, Treasurer

Bella Tousignant, Asst Treasurer – Excused

Revenue and net income are much higher than last year. The Thrift Shop is doing extremely well with a \$19K net profit, after paying back to Iona Hope \$11K. Bob E asked if we would be returning the money withdrawn from the line of credit Joe advised that for now, will keep the money and will look at everything again in May again before we renew. Joe has put together an new finance team of himself , Bella, Paula, Rob, Kathleen, Eileen, Margaret Carr and Neil Tousley. He passed around the new Finance objective that the team established. Joe added that we need to start a stewardship campaign as soon as possible as well as look to a new capital campaign. There are a lot of good people in the congregation that would be excellent for these positions. Joe commented that the existing dates and times that the team meets make for everything to be too rushed and requested to move the finance committee meeting to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month and then change the dates of the Vestry meeting to coincide with this and meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month. After some minor discussion it was voted unanimously to move the Vestry meeting date to be the 4th Tuesday of each month effective with the April meeting of April 26th. We will begin to advertise the seat plates again at \$125 – current cost is \$50. Paula indicated she could find an even better cost . No new niches have been sold yet. We have received our annual audit letter from Dees and Dees CPA. We need to engage them at a cost of \$4k plus expenses. Motion, Paula, Second Bob all in favor.

Junior Warden

Alison Kinch, Jr Warden

Alison noted there are a number of items to be worked on. Plans to put together a garden work day now that all the sprinklers are working. Our Sextons have advised of a few items needing attention, lights needing to be replaced and the Columbarium needs to be cleaned on the outside. The AC in the Gathering place needs to be kept ON at 77 degrees. All small group leaders and liaisons who utilize the space will be advised.

Closing Prayers

Father Ray.

Thank you to everyone here and for all that has been accomplished this evening. THANK YOU

Meeting adjourned, 6:20pm

Respectfully Submitted

Margo Farrara
Clerk of the Vestry