

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2025, 4:00 p.m.

Attending: The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones, Rector

Vestry: Paula Paquette, Senior Warden (Zoom)

Alison Kinch, Junior Warden

Deb Prather

John Hufnagel

Marcia Leidig

Patty Ingram

Steve Walsh (~~Zoom~~)

Susan Crawford

Margo Farrara

Treasurer: Joe Mulino

Thrift Shop: Eileen Carrara (excused)

Administrator: Marnie Ike (Zoom)

Media Director: Margaret Carr

Chaplain: Marilyn Moore (Zoom)

Clerk: Teresa Hufnagel

Opening Prayer

Marilyn provided an opening prayer. "God will be behind the scenes."

Approval of previous minutes October 28, 2025

Susan made a motion to approve, Deb seconded. Minutes were approved.

Upcoming Events

Getting ready for Advent.

Bob & Joe are making blue ribbons & will then switch to red.

Quiet time will occur on Dec. 13th. John Danner will lead.

Mother Jenny said graduation ceremonies and/or Christmas shows can be held at Iona-Hope. On Friday, December 12th, Mother Jenny's children's preschool will hold an event at Iona-Hope.

Valentine concert will be held January 18th. Rob started this activity; John is working on it now.

The Celtic Celebration will be held March 22nd.

Deb will organize a fundraising auction for the first weekend of March. John thanked her for her willingness to move this event to accommodate Celtic Celebration.

Planning to sell physical gift cards from RaiseRight for the holidays.

Angel Tree for Gladiolus Food Bank will use RaiseRight gift cards.

Stewardship

Joe and Paula said that as of the date of this meeting, 24 parishioners have returned cards totaling \$137,000.00.

No one besides Joe and Marnie sees the cards.

Joe said that at the December Vestry meeting, each Vestry member will receive the names of about 5 parishioners who have not yet returned stewardship cards and Vestry members will encourage them to return cards.

Thrift Store

Eileen was excused from meeting; Mother Jenny mentioned that Vestry members are welcome to attend Thrift Store Christmas party.

Treasurer's Report

Joe said we have 25K in checking account after deducting reserve funds. Joe recommended that the remaining 15K be taken from the Thrift Store. Deb made this motion with Susan seconding. Vote was unanimous and in favor of the motion.

Joe said we are still missing 20K in 2025 pledges.

Kudos to Eileen and thrift store which is doing very well.

Joe recommended that Eileen's salary be increased from 50K to 54K to pay her 4K portion of her medical insurance as this is the practice for other church employees. Margo made this motion with Alison seconding. Vote was unanimous and in favor of the motion.

The 2026 thrift store budget was approved unanimously with Alison making the motion and Deb seconding.

The Vestry was offered two options for Mother Jenny's salary adjustment to compensate her to pay her portion of insurance obtained through her husband's employer. Mother Jenny will no longer be on church insurance. This change saves Iona-Hope more than 22k per year. The change to Iona-Hope increasing Mother Jenny's salary to pay her medical insurance was approved unanimously by the Vestry with Patti making the motion and Margo seconding.

The 2026 Iona-Hope budget will be voted on at December Vestry meeting. If we have 300k promised via the stewardship campaign, the church will have a 39k deficit for 2026.

Junior Warden Report

The building and grounds team is currently generating a list of concerns, and will be prioritizing these by cost and urgency. We need a cordless vacuum. Let Alison know if something needs to be fixed by phoning, texting or emailing her.

Alison passed a signup sheet for Vestry members to clean church. Alison to publish it. Cleaning crew will restart for once-a-month cleaning.

Senior Warden Report

Stewardship launches went well. Barbeque was joyful. Paula expressed thanks for assistance with stewardship.

Iona-Hope book of prayers will be coming in spring.

Jeffrey is knocking things off the list of things to do.

Rector Report

Mother Jenny requested that office hours be changed to 9:00-1:00 starting in December. The office will still be available but just not open for walk-ins. Mother Jenny will be available via appointments at 1:00 or after. Vestry agreed to change the hours. Mother Jenny is always available for spiritual emergencies.

The Holy Cow order has been placed and hoping to begin the first week of December.

Mother Jenny asked Vestry to read a book, Embracing the Mixed Ecology. She asked the Vestry to read the intro and first two chapters before December Vestry meeting. She hopes this book will be helpful and instrumental in strategic planning.

Joe requested the December Vestry meeting be moved from the 23rd to the 18th. Vestry agreed on the 18th and a time of 3:30 pm.

Marilyn provided an ending prayer.

VESTRY REPORTS NOVEMBER 2025

Rector's Report—Mother Jenny

Due to Mother Jenny being at the Clergy retreat this week, a report is unavailable. She would like you all to watch the bishop's "state of the diocese" (*under Morning Plenary*) address starting at 37 minutes.

<https://www.conventionswfl.org/workshops>

Treasurer's Report—Joe Mulino

Recap of Financial Statements— October 2025—Respectfully submitted. Joe.

Treasurer's Report Vestry Meeting November 20, 2025 Recap of Financial Statements October 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
400300 Contributions-Pledged	\$ 14,787	\$ 20,149
400301 Contributions-Non Pledge	\$ 1,330	\$ 3,610
400305 Contributions-Extra Pledge	\$ 1,000	\$ na
400500 Contributions-Plate	\$ 674	\$ 687
400700 Special Contributions	\$ 4,200	\$ 11,000
Total Contributions Revenue-Oct.	\$ 21,991	\$ 35,446
Total Other Revenue-Oct.	\$ 544	\$ 1,168
Total Pass thru Revenue-Oct .	\$ 2,314	\$ 609
Total Revenue- Oct.	\$ 20,221	\$ 37,227
Total Expenses-Oct..	\$ 59,432	\$ 53,251
Net Income/Loss-Oct.	\$ 39,211	\$ 16,024
Year to Date Income	\$ 505,046	\$403,928
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 512,051	\$448,172
Year to Date Net Income/Loss	\$ 7,004	\$ 44,258
Year to Date Contributions Pledged	\$ 247,744	\$272,768
Year to Date Contributions-		
Non-Pledged	\$ 29,232	\$ 69,774
Year to Date Contributions-Extra Pledge	\$ 28,250	\$ na
Year to Date Contributions- Plate	\$ 7,134	\$ 7,866
Year to Date Special Contributions	\$ 72,718	\$ 16,775
Year to Date Total Contributions	\$ 385,078	\$367,183

Recap of Financial Statement October 2025— Thrift Store Account

<u>THRIFT STORE RECAP-Oct. 2025</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Revenue Income – Oct.	\$ 39,070	\$ 29,641
Interest Income-Money Mkt-Oct.	\$ 459	\$ 0
Total Revenue-Oct .	\$ 39,529	\$ 29,641
Total Expenses – Oct.	\$ 22,949	\$ 22,893
Net Income/Lose-Oct.	\$ 16,580	\$ 6,748
 Year to Date Income	 \$ 390,688	 \$344,852
Year to Date Interest Income	\$ 4,539	\$ 0
Total YTD Income	\$ 395,228	\$344,853
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 392,563	\$325,425
Year to Date Net Income/Loss	\$ 2,664	\$ 19,427

Discussion/Updates:

- **Review & Discussion of the draft of our 2026 Budget for the Church and Thrift Store**
- **Recommendation of Salary adjustment for Mtr. Jenny,Rector in conjunction with Health Insurance adjustment.**
- **Recommendation of Salary adjustment for Eileen Carrara, Manager of the Thrift Store in conjunction with Health Insurance adjustment.**

Respectfully submitted. *Joe Mulino, Treasurer*

Interfaith Report—Margaret Carr

November Interfaith

This month we gathered at Temple Beth El on Thursday
November 6th for Faith250, a national interfaith project to come
together in fellowship and meaningful conversation
This was a clergy led event.

There will be no meeting in December.

Our regular monthly Interfaith meeting will be on **Thursday January
15th at 6:30 P.M.** right here at Iona-Hope.

I hope members of the Vestry can attend!



LIFE Update—Steve Walsh

LIFE Justice Ministry

Oct. 28th rally took place and was attend by approximately 100 people. Iona Hope only had 2 present and 2 absent due to conflicts. The plans to reboot LIFE are ambitious and will take time. The earliest plan for a LIFE Nehemiah Action is Spring 2026. The affordable housing committee is doing an excellent job of monitoring and insisting that Lee County build more affordable housing.

Thrift Store Report—Eileen Carrara

November 20, 2025

The store is "Holiday Ready" and we are preparing for our "Black Friday" sale.

Below is a copy of our managers' meeting of November 7th, for a current update. As you will note, the Thrift Store Christmas Party will be held on Monday, December 8th at 5:30 pm at the store. All Iona Hope staff and vestry are invited to join our wonderful group of volunteers for an evening of holiday cheer and friendship.

IONA HOPE ONE MORE TIME THRIFT STORE MANAGERS' MEETING

Friday, November 7, 2025

Attending: Store manager Eileen Carrera; Day managers- Barb Belmonte, Bob Earl, Larry Hansen, Doris Leary, Eric Leary, Andrea Thom; Rector Jenny Scott Jones

Rector Jenny Scott Jones opened the meeting with a prayer at 9:03 AM.

Eileen presented the financials for the month of October 2025 and years 2022 - 2025. Once again, the women's department topped sales for the month. Sales for the first 10 months of 2025 almost met the total for the entire year 2024.

Eileen talked about Black Friday sales that will be both on Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. Volunteers have been working on pricing and hopefully 85% will be done by this Sunday. Plans are once again to close the store at 3:00 on Wednesday to set up Black Friday sales. We will have more cashiers and additional help at the register on both Sales days. Eileen will be working both Friday and Saturday as well. As many volunteers as possible are needed both days because we anticipate a high volume of customers. Day managers agreed to keep the policy of NO volunteer discounts on Black Friday items on those sales days. Volunteers are encouraged to wear black and white on Black Friday Sales Days.

Eileen announced that the annual **volunteer Christmas Party is Monday, December 8th at 5:30 pm.** This year we are going to celebrate at the front of the store where we have the lovely large wood floor. As in the past, we will have a cold buffet.

Next week, on Veterans' Day, November 11th, the store will once again offer a 10% discount to veterans with a photo ID and military ID.

Eileen discussed the problem we are having with people using our store as their personal dumpster. We have noticed a substantial number of donations that are truly NOT up to this store's standards. Some donors have even said "If you can't use them, throw them out." Eileen pointed out that we are a re-sale store and it is OK to politely refuse items that we cannot sell. All day managers agreed.

There were no further topics to discuss.

The next meeting will be on Friday, December 5, 2025.

Rector Jenny Scott Jones gave the blessing to close the meeting at 10:00 AM.

**Iona-Hope Episcopal Church Year-to-date,
Through October 31, 2025
Thrift Shop Budget 2026**

Headings and Account	YTD Actual 2025	YTD Budget 2025	Annual Budget 2025	Projected for 2026
Other Revenues				
710000 - TS Income	\$390,688.48	\$346,666.70	\$416,000.00	\$460,000.00
710001 - TS Bank Interest	\$4,539.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,800.00
Total Other Revenues	\$395,227.81	\$346,666.70	\$416,000.00	\$464,800.00
Other Expenses				
Thrift Shop Expense				
810001 - TS Rent	\$119,243.29	\$116,666.70	\$140,000.00	\$147,000.00
810002 - TS Utilities	\$7,569.94	\$10,833.30	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
810003 - TS Phone/Internet	\$2,925.43	\$3,500.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00
810004 - TS Maintenance	\$12,417.57	\$15,880.00	\$19,056.00	\$19,056.00
810006 - TS Storage Unit Rentals	\$19,523.80	\$20,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$25,200.00
810007 - TS Advertising	\$0.00	\$4,166.70	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00
810009 - TS Pick-Up and Delivery	\$11,437.50	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
810010 - TS Store Fixtures Exp	\$0.00	\$166.70	\$200.00	\$200.00
810012 - TS Merchant Service Fees	\$8,954.00	\$6,700.00	\$8,040.00	\$8,040.00
810013 - TS Supplies	\$4,517.79	\$4,083.30	\$4,900.00	\$4,900.00
810014 - TS Bank Charges	\$0.90	\$208.30	\$250.00	\$250.00
810030 - TS Salaries & Payroll Tax	\$43,550.78	\$41,666.70	\$50,000.00	\$54,000.00
810032 - TS Admin Salaries & Payroll Tax	\$11,640.60	\$11,666.70	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.00
810035 - TS Computer & Accessories	\$1,290.22	\$833.30	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
810049 - TS App. Expense	\$1,911.48	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
810050 - TS Outreach	\$61,854.65	\$41,666.70	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
810052 - TS Support I-H	\$84,587.00	\$41,666.70	\$50,000.00	\$100,000.00
810060 - TS Outreach - Dayspring				
Summer Camp	\$0.00	\$2,083.30	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
810061 - TS Special Events Expense	\$1,138.38	\$833.30	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Total Thrift Shop Expense	\$392,563.33	\$335,121.70	\$402,146.00	\$462,346.00
				\$2,454.00