

# CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY MINUTES

March 21st, 2021

## 01. Call to Order & Quorum.

- a. Present were: Seth Sizer; Rachel Lamar; Rebecca Smith; Troy Eichenberger; Chip Caldwell; Barbara Arthur; Ray Barney, Junior Warden; Charlotte Boatwright, Senior Warden; and Fr. Will Levanway, Priest in Charge.
- b. Absent: Mark Reneau.
- c. Upon declaration that a quorum was in attendance, the Zoom meeting was called to order at 12:14pm

## 02. Opening Prayer & Devotion. Fr. Will Levanway.

## 03. Accept Previous Minutes.

- a. Any additions or modifications were solicited. After a motion and second, the minutes from the February meeting were accepted unanimously.

## 04. Developmental Goal.

*Creatively renew and revive ministry particular to our unique geographic context through healthy collaboration and mutual support with Project Canterbury.*

- a. Fr. Will asked when we think about where we're geographically located, what are things we can think of that are a ministry that we have done successfully in the past, or things we could be doing in the future, or groups that are around that we aren't connected with?
  1. **Interfaith Opportunities**
    - Ray mentioned that she knew a priest who was involved with interfaith dialogues. Christ Church had been involved with the Muslim community in the past. Ray herself has been involved with Olivet Baptist and CME community.
    - Rebecca said it was the Islamic Center of Greater Chattanooga. She said we also had talked about getting together with the Mizpah Congregation down the road. She also said it was nice to share a meal with the Islamic Center, and especially good to have a shared project, which in that case was a joint sponsoring of a refugee family through Bridge.
    - Barbara offered to reach out to her friends at Mizpah about getting together.
  2. Charlotte suggested that, in her opinion, Christ Church is not a neighborhood church, we draw people from all over, sometimes quite a distance away, and that is our demographic.
    - Troy added on that point that another demographic to think about is the University of the South and the seminarians we can be serving.

### **Finance Committee Update**

- b. Chip reported that we had better giving and lower expenses in February. There is no guarantee that will continue, but things are looking up.
- c. Seth offered thanks to the finance committee for keeping an eye on things.
- d. Fr. Will asked about the status of our PPP loans. Chip said the week before last, the portal was not yet up to enter our numbers.
- e. Chip made a **motion** to appoint Seth Sizer to look into how to use Garvin Colburn's bequest in a way that would appropriately memorialize her. After a second, **motion passed**.

- f. Charlotte asked about the property tax exemption for the Canterbury Building. Chip said it was filed in December but it's still in-process, and was told when it was filed it could take up to 4 months. He said he will call and ask for an update.

## 05. Junior Warden Report

### a. Parking Lot Sign

1. One of our parking lot signs has disappeared. David Seidel from UTC confirmed it was not a sign the university provided. It's been suggested that the sign was not in a great location anyway, and we have three other signs with the relevant information, so Ray suggested we should not pursue replacing it.
2. Fr. Will noted he hasn't noticed the parking situation being any worse since the sign has been gone, in fact it's gotten slightly better, though he suspects that's just because we're further into the semester and students have figured things out better.

### b. Memorial Garden Sign

1. People have been bringing their pets into the Memorial Garden and Fr. Will has been having to pick up a lot before services. Ray said she is looking into getting a sign made for the Memorial Garden.
2. Rebecca suggested having a designated spot with pet bags and a trash can for dog walkers, such as the driveway alley, or the other side of the church. Chip and Ray said their dogs wouldn't go in those spots because there's not enough room.
3. Fr. Will asked if we should have a "no animals" sign in the memorial garden, or a sign that says "please clean up after your animals"? Ray said as someone who plans to be buried there, she is fine with "please clean up after your animals." Troy asked what the National Cemetery's policy is. It was agreed to go with whatever the National Cemetery's policy is.

## 06. Christ Church Covenant

- a. Fr. Will suggested this may not be exactly what we all think about everything, but we're content to be associated with a community aiming in this direction.
- b. Rebecca commented that she likes that we have this statement about LGBTQ folks but it saddens her it's a statement we have to have, in the same way we might say "we welcome people of all colors", and asked how long do we think we'll need this statement? Chip agreed, and Troy added that by having that statement in you're alienating other areas of diversity like gender, age, ability, race, and said that we should be a welcoming community of everyone. Fr. Will offered that his intent with that portion is that being LGBTQ affirming is not something people can assume about churches and some churches are intentionally unclear about it, and is happy to work on expanding the statement to be more inclusive. Fr. Will asked that any further thoughts and feedback be sent to him, and said we will iterate on this two or three more times before adoption.

## 07. Parochial Report

### a. Narrative Questions

1. *What were the primary opportunities, innovations and challenges in conducting worship during the pandemic? What did you learn?*
  - Seth suggested "Patience." Fr. Will agreed, patience especially with each other as we figured things out. He also added as an innovation we've started streaming our worship. It was generally agreed streaming our services would be here to stay.

- Ray said she had started doing daily prayer because of all the offerings.
  - Charlotte said we've learned awareness on how precious our church family is, and what a community we are. She also learned how many of our parishioners are not engaged with technology enough to be able to watch our services.
2. *What are the primary opportunities and challenges your church is facing as it plans for the future?*
    - Fr. Will offered that the uncertainty is a big challenge, both with the pandemic and with who is going to come back. Troy said how we'll re-engage children in ministry.
  3. *What three things have changed the most in how the church conducts its ministry?*
    - Not meeting in person. Using Zoom. Don't have personal fellowship, no breakfast or hospitality after services, no hugging, no seeing the children.

**b. Membership**

Rachel asked why there was such a significant decrease in membership (62 person decrease). Fr. Will relayed that membership rolls have not been well maintained for a few years - for instance, we had a number of people who had died but were still listed as active members, as well as folks who have moved away. Brian has been working over the past year in consultation with parishioners to correct the numbers.

**08. Job Descriptions**

- a. Fr. Will said a couple people had asked about vestry job descriptions, and so he has sent through an example description of the responsibilities for vestry members. He solicited any amendments they may have.
- b. Chip suggested that it should reference our bylaws and what they require us to do.
- c. Charlotte said she has also begun the process of asking all the committee chairs to list what their committee is in charge of and the responsibilities the chair has.

**09. Questions to Clergy and Wardens**

- a. Seth asked if there was anything from the Diocese about reopening the churches. Fr. Will relayed that no, they're trying to not be especially top-down about it, only that if we're trying to open back up completely we should consult with the bishop first.
- b. Barbara suggested we promote to the parish that Wal-Mart is offering appointments to everyone and have plenty of appointments. She offered to write up something for the Exsultet. Seth noted CVS and Walgreens have appointments too.
- c. Shared Leadership Form
  1. Rebecca asked a few questions about where things should be categorized on the Shared Leadership form.
  2. Barbara asked if we are to put this on a scale, to which Fr. Will said it should just be tally marks.
  3. Ray said she doesn't find the form helpful, and finds it distracting to fill it out while engaging in the conversation. Troy agreed.

**10. Next Meeting**

- a. Fr. Will is in talks with Canon SuzAnne to have her again for our April meeting to think through some things, especially about our relationship with Project Canterbury and campus outreach.

**11. Closing Prayer & Adjournment.** Fr. Will Levanway.

Meeting adjourned at 1:27 PM. The next meeting is TBD.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Brian J. Henry

Appendix I  
Junior Warden's March Report

Rita, Brian, and I met with EPB technician Scott on Thursday March 11th to discuss installing internet service in the Nave. Rita worked with Scott and found an acceptable entry for the wiring so that would not diminish the beauty of our church. The wiring will run off of one of the poles in front of the church into the utility closet in the choir loft.

The router that was recommended turned out not to work as planned. It was not a good fit. It needed a part, which required more money, and an approval from vestry. Therefore, this Sunday we use Project Canterbury's router. However, after talking to a church member, we were gifted \$150 to get a new router. We can now return the previous router and put the returned money with the gifted money and purchase a better router. The name of the camera is the MeVo Start camera. Sunday's service looked OK to me. Please let me know if there are any problems.

Towing warning sign - I have to get in touch with David Seidel. Will do this week.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ray Barney

Appendix 2  
Christ Church Covenant  
*What we expect of ourselves and of others.*

Q:What is the Church?

A:The Church is the community of the New Covenant.

- *The Book of Common Prayer* p. 854

While many of us are at different places in our journey of faith, we take it for granted that as a church community we affirm the historic faith and creeds of the catholic church. We accept and acknowledge the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed in our lives and in our worship as our confession of the Trinity, one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Scriptures contain everything necessary for our salvation. The Old and New Testaments are, as the catechism tells us, inspired because 'God inspired their human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible.' We understand the Bible by applying our hearts, minds, and wills to it under the guidance of the Holy Spirit at work in the church.

We believe in and make use of the sacraments Christ has given us. The sacraments are outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace given by Christ as sure means to receive that grace. Chief among the sacraments are baptism and eucharist given directly by Christ to his church. We recognize other sacramental rites as means of grace, especially confirmation, ordination, holy matrimony, confession, and holy unction. We aspire to make regular use of the sacraments as means of grace to aid us in growing in holiness and conforming our life to Christ's own life.

While individual members may hold different views, as a church community we are affirming of the place of LGBTQ+ in the life of our church. We believe that being LGBTQ+ is compatible with being a Christian and is not sinful. LGBTQ+ people are welcome to participate fully in the life of the church taking on leadership positions, being married, and receiving all the sacraments.

We seek to live out the command given in the letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians, 'lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.' (4:1b-2) In our life together we seek to create and nurture a safe and trusting environment in which all members feel comfortable and confident in expressing their thoughts and opinions. We acknowledge the unique and particular gifts of each member of the community speaking and acting in such to support those gifts. When it is necessary to confront one another we do so without demeaning each other, without speaking to or listening to gossip, and with a readiness to forgive. We aim to resolve conflict within our community according to the principles given to us by our Lord in the Gospel according to St. Matthew: speaking first to the individual directly, then with the help of clergy, and only then referring it to the vestry or larger church. Learning to disagree well in and with compassion is a skill we seek to embody.

We seek to embody a way of life together where we share in each other's joys and suffering. As St. Paul asks of us we 'rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.' We seek to help each other with prayer, attention, and material giving. We pray for each other. We name those in need of prayer in our worship together in hopes that they will be held in prayer by individuals. Praying for each other means that we feel free to share with others our worries, hopes, joys, and thanksgivings in trust and confidence when necessary. We give attention to each other in hospitality and in our conversation. We give to and for others. We aim to contribute financially to the life of the church as we are able. We give financially and materially to those we know to be in need personally and by supporting ministries in and for our communities.

We seek to live a life of prayer and devotion. We commit ourselves to developing a healthy and sustainable rhythm of daily personal prayer, regular study of the Scriptures, and participation in the sacraments. *The Book of Common Prayer* tells us that the 'duty of all Christians is to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.' We aim to fulfil those duties by:

Following the example of Christ in home and daily life, and to bear personal witness to Him.

Being regular in private prayer day by day.

Reading the Bible carefully.

Coming to Church every Sunday.

Receiving Holy Communion faithfully and regularly.

Giving personal service to Church, neighbors, and community.

Giving money for the work of the parish, the diocese, and the Church throughout the world.

Maintaining the standards of justice and love entrusted by Christ to His Church.

Caring that children are brought up to love and serve the Lord.

## **CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL Job Descriptions**

Christ Church should have written job descriptions for every paid or unpaid position in the church. Job descriptions should be reviewed and revised annually or as needed. Records of reviews/revisions should be recorded at the end of each Job Description.

### **Job Description All Vestry Members**

To the best of their ability, Vestry members should:

- Have a love of God and demonstrate a commitment to following the way of Christ
- Be active in and knowledgeable about the congregation, its programs, and governance
- Be fair, interact well with people, and strive to earn the respect of the members of the congregation
- Commit themselves to the concept of partnership between vestry and clergy leaders, recognizing the success of an inclusive model of leadership relies on everyone's participation
- Offer talents to discern and support the congregation's mission and vision
- Be active ministers of the gospel in daily life and work
- Pledge financial support early in the annual or other campaign

#### **Vestry members should be able to make the following time commitments**

- Vestry meetings and committee work
- Vestry retreat(s)