

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL VESTRY MINUTES JANUARY 17, 2019

Present were:

Fr. David Cobb, Interim Rector
Michael Thompson, Sr. Warden
Nancy Poston, Jr. Warden
Jim Hatley, Treasurer
Barbara Arthur
John Barnes
Ray Barney
Laura Eichenberger
Joel King
Seth Sizer
Danese Sizer, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Sr. Warden Michael Thompson. Fr. Cobb opened the meeting with prayer. Michael requested everyone review the Committee Reports and Minutes from the December 18, 2019 Vestry Meeting and asked for changes, corrections, or additions. There being none, a motion to approve was made and seconded and the Minutes were approved.

Rector's Report: Fr. Cobb reviewed the services from Christmas Eve 2018. He was pleased with the healthy attendance at the 10:30 mass and complimented those who had made the service special. He suggested the vestry review their decision to have an earlier family service because this service was poorly attended. He felt encouraged and hopeful regarding the future for Christ Church and calling a new priest. He commented on the large number of seminarians present the previous Sunday and how exciting it was to have them. Sr. Warden Michael Thompson thanked Fr. Cobb for his service as Interim Priest at Christ Church and stated how thrilled and confident we felt knowing that he was at the seminary training new priests for the Episcopal Church. He thanked him for introducing us to many new traditions of Anglo Catholic worship, and for showing how the liturgy could be formal without being stuffy. Fr. Cobb said we have much to offer a new priest, especially given our downtown location and our close physical connection to UTC. He stated that he felt we were poised for good things in the future, and the leadership of a new priest would bring out the health and vitality of the parish. The vestry applauded their thanks to Fr. Cobb.

Senior Warden's Report: Michael Thompson discussed transparency issues with the congregation and asked whether we should publish the minutes of each vestry meeting in the church E-News. Fr. Cobb suggested that if the regular meeting of the vestry contained an item of interest to the congregation, such as an update regarding the status of the search, that this might be shared via E-News. But he stated the business of the church was not, and should not be, the most interesting thing about the church. Michael then called the vestry's attention to the Committee list and commented on the addition of new members to several committees. He announced that Johanna Miller had resigned her position as chairman of the Finance Committee, and the new chair will be Phil Johnson. He also announced Troy Eichenberger as the chair of the Endowment Committee. He thanked Johanna for her work with church finances and the budget. Michael also announced that the current church secretary, Kathlyn Wender, would increase her hours of employment to 12-15 hours per week. Her new work schedule will be from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Since this increase will affect the 2019 budget, he asked for the approval of the vestry. A motion was made, seconded and the increase

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approved. A question was raised about messages left on the church phone after hours and on the days Kathlyn was not working. Michael said he would talk with Nancy Poston and Rev. Betty Latham regarding this issue. It was suggested that Michael change the greeting on the phone to reflect current information. Joel King requested this information and Kathlyn's new work schedule be published in the E-News for the congregation. Michael asked Fr. Cobb and each vestry member to sign the letter written to thank the anonymous window donor. This action was completed and the clerk will address and mail the letter. Michael then asked the vestry to turn their attention to a proposed contract with Richards-Fowkes & Company for the installation of two additional stops to the church organ. The request for this was contained in the Last Will and Testament of parishioner Bill Murchison. Mr. Murchison left 10% of his estate to Christ Church to fund this completion of the organ with the request to use any remaining funds to create a music endowment. Discussion ensued, and it was determined that a contract should not be signed until the estate was finalized. Any remaining funds will be given to the Endowment Committee to form a separate music endowment.

Junior Warden's Report: Nancy Poston informed the vestry about the continued boiler repair. She stated there was a new part required to complete repairs. This part was not replaced when the new boiler was installed. Cost of the part is \$4,235. She brought the vestry up to date on the plaster repair in the women's parish bathroom, and the work being done to repair the plaster in the narthex. This work included removal of tree roots in the memorial garden, sealing and adding a membrane to the exterior wall, addition of gravel and redesign of the drain, and relocation of the condensation pipe. New dirt and replanting will commence upon completion. A price estimate for tower brick repair has not been received. Nancy also informed the vestry of a meeting she had with UTC regarding the possibility of renting portions of the church parking lot for University use during the weekdays. John Barnes asked if this would require the church to carry additional liability insurance. He asked to be included in the next meeting with UTC. Nancy also informed the vestry that she was investigating the price of repainting the narthex and the creation of a history wall using pictures of past Christ Church priests. Betsy Bedwell, Director of Children's Ministry, has requested shelving be installed in the nursery area. It was requested that Betsy meet with the carpenter to determine exact needs and exact measurements. There was discussion regarding a piano with a broken leg in that area. Laura Eichenberger encouraged the piano be removed to insure the safety of the children. Joel King was asked to form a committee to oversee the planned utilization of all buildings. It was determined the new priest should be part of this utilization conversation. Fr. Cobb mentioned the issues with the location of the current rector's office and asked that this be part of that planning process.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Hatley distributed the following reports: Year to Date Income and Expenses through December 2018, December 2018 Year End Treasury Report, Balance Sheet Data for December 2018. He stated the cost of boiler repair would come out of Building and Grounds. He noted that the 1/14/19 balance of \$58,593.36 shown on the Treasury Report did not reflect allocated funds of \$26,000, so the actual available income was \$32,000. Seth Sizer thanked Jim for the thorough reports and asked for this same level of detail each month.

There being no further business to come before the vestry, the meeting was adjourned. Fr. Cobb closed with prayer for the church and vestry as they begin their work with the Diocese in search for a new priest. The next meeting of the vestry will be the vestry retreat scheduled for Saturday, January 26th at 9:30 a.m. The next regular meeting will be Thursday, February 21st at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Danese E. Sizer, Clerk