

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL VESTRY MINUTES MARCH 21, 2019

Present were:

Michael Thompson, Sr. Warden
Nancy Poston, Jr. Warden
Jim Hatley, Treasurer
Barbara Arthur
John Barnes
Ray Barney
Joel King
Seth Sizer
Danese Sizer, Clerk

Absent was:

Laura Eichenberger

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m. by Sr. Warden Michael Thompson. Ms. Arthur opened the meeting with Prayer. Minutes from the February 21, 2019 vestry meeting with suggested changes were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and the Minutes as corrected were unanimously approved. These Minutes are attached and hereby made a part of this document. Mr. Thompson added that action items from the previous meeting with only one exception had been completed. Mr. Thompson thanked Ms. Sizer for her work as Clerk.

Senior Warden's Report: Mr. Thompson began by noting that the previous offer from an anonymous donor to complete several restoration projects, purchase altar linens for side altars and flags for the front of the church had been withdrawn due to a turn in finances. Mr. Thompson announced that he would be meeting with Bishop Cole on April 10th to update him on the current restoration situation and anticipated work on the tower, and to follow up on Diocesan progress with the Christ Church search for a rector. It has been five weeks since the required information forms have been completed, and we have not had a progress report from Canon Michelle Bolt. Mr. Thompson had called this week, but Canon Bolt was on vacation. He will call again this coming week for an update. Mr. Thompson then asked for a decision regarding the plate offering from the previous Sunday where our guest speaker was Dr. Anani Prosper. It was unanimously approved that the plate offering from Sunday, March 17th be donated to The Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti. Mr. Thompson asked vestry members to be aware when working in the nave of walking in front of the altar when going from one side to the other. He asked vestry members to model a more respectable egress to others in the congregation by going around. A suggestion was made to keep the altar rail gate closed after services, and all agreed that would be helpful. Mr. Thompson presented the Holy Week Schedule of Services to the vestry, and explained that it would be included in the E-News that week and weeks following. This schedule is attached and made a part of these Minutes. Mr. Thompson recognized the work of the Congregational Care Committee, especially the recent Pancake Supper. There were 69 people in attendance and 19 UTC students. Mr. Thompson outlined for the vestry the two week trial of a new computer program for making bulletins. Office secretary, Kathlyn Wender, has found the program very helpful with the compilation of music and other materials for insertion into the bulletins. A one year subscription to the program is \$300. The vestry voted unanimously to approve the expense for this year. Mr. Thompson closed his report by reviewing priests scheduled for services through April 28th.

Junior Warden's Report: Nancy Poston called the vestry's attention to the Bid Proposal from Adams Masonry dated March 19, 2019. A copy of this proposal is attached hereto and hereby made a part of these Minutes. The proposal details the work on the tower at a cost of \$39,100. Repointing the remainder of the main church building will be an additional \$20,800. The price given to repair each lintel is \$500.00 per lintel. There was considerable discussion, but the consensus was the work must be done and begun quickly. Mr. Sizer and Mr. Barnes presented their follow-up report on references for Adams Masonry. This report is attached and a part of these Minutes. All references were favorable, with one comment noted by Mr. Barnes from Holloway Construction which cautioned there could be the contingency of having the additional expense of an engineer or architect. At this time a motion was made that Ms. Poston be given authority to negotiate final pricing and contract with Adams Masonry on behalf of the vestry. This motion was seconded and unanimously adopted. The discussion turned to financing the necessary work. It was agreed that the primary concern at this time was the tower work, and how to finance that portion of the project. Mr. Hatley reminded everyone that the anonymous donor had approved \$25,000 for brick work. Ms. Poston suggested that we tackle the tower portion of the project, and then later get additional bids for repointing work. She told the vestry that she was currently investigating possible grant monies that might be available for this project. She had previously contacted the Diocese regarding the Opportunity Fund, but discovered it was only a low interest loan option and not a grant. She will investigate grant funds that may be available through the National Register of Historic Places. She states our application to same has been accepted. Ms. Poston will try to negotiate the cost of the tower lintels into the total price of \$39,100. Other contingency issues were discussed. A motion was made and seconded that a total of \$50,000 be allocated for the first part of the tower project, \$25,000 from the anonymous donor and \$25,000 from the shortfall fund. This motion passed by acclamation. Other items on the Junior Warden's Report were considered at this time. Ms. Poston reported that window restoration on the East side of the church has been completed. Mr. Thompson said our congregation should celebrate together whenever building restoration items are finished, and suggested a toast in the garden on Sunday with the introduction of the window restorer as our guest. Ideas to begin planning a capital campaign were discussed for a later date. Other items discussed were plaster repair and repainting of the nave, window restoration donor program, leak and plaster in women's bathroom repaired. There is an issue with the large window in the front of the church that may be affecting the organ because of moisture and water intrusion. The cost to repair the window is estimated to be less than \$1,000. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to go forward with this repair and for the allocation of funds to pay for said repair to come from the Greasby Fund. The UTC Parking Lot Contract is still on hold because of further negotiations. Mr. Hatley stated that he had contacted Church Insurance regarding our liability and needed to know exactly how many parking spaces would be leased and for what time frame. He believes our premiums will be increased. Ms. Poston said she would provide this information. Ms. Arthur said her initial research insinuated the church might lose its non-taxable property status if the lot is leased to UTC. Because of the questionable nature of this issue, it was tabled until next month when more detailed information is available. The final issue to come before the vestry was rekeying the church. Ms. Poston reported that she had identified about half the keys issued. Pros and cons were voiced on this issue, and the consensus was not to rekey at this time. If security appears to become an issue, the vestry will revisit the issue. There will be no new groups allowed to utilize the church buildings until such time as there is a priest in residence.

Treasurer's Report: Jim Hatley presented the February 2019 Treasury Report, a copy of which is attached hereto and hereby made a part of these Minutes. He apologized for the lack of detail and further reports which the vestry had asked for. He stated he had a problem with the financial software, but was scheduling a meeting of the Finance Committee to review and make recommendations on additional solutions.

There being no further business to come before the vestry, the meeting was adjourned with Scripture and prayer by Michael Thompson. The next regular meeting of the vestry will be on Thursday, April 11th 2019.

Respectfully submitted,
Danese E. Sizer, Clerk