

**Christ Church**  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting of the Vestry  
Tuesday, March 10, 2015

**Present:** Rector's Warden Artie Phillips; People's Warden Sheila Cooper, Vestry members John Ager (arrived at 7:33 PM), Austin Cooper, Carole Forsythe, Mel Garber (arrived at 7:27 PM), Mervis Johnson, Effie Lamptey, Melisande Skillicorn, Cheryl Ann Stofan,

**Also Present:** Ali Van Kuiken, Assistant Treasurer Eric Sanders, Treasurer Jonathan Gloster (via telephone), Vestry member Beth Binde (via telephone)

**Absent:** The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis; Vestry Members Andrea Cunnell and Andy Murphy

Artie Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM and Sheila Cooper provided the opening prayer.

Sheila Cooper reviewed Vestry Norms: Respect Guidelines and Mutual Invitation document

Artie Phillips welcomed new Vestry members: Austin Cooper, Mervis Johnson, Cheryl Ann Stofan and Assistant Treasurer Eric Sanders

Dwelling in the Word was Numbers 21:4-9

**Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 7, 2015:** Two typos were identified and will be corrected. People's Warden Sheila Cooper moved to accept the minutes as distributed. The motion carried unanimously with those changes.

**Correspondence:** Clerk of the Vestry Debra Lowe reported no correspondence.

**How to Read the Financial Report:** Carole Forsythe explained how to read the report. She said it is not as complex as it looks. The expenses shown are similar to other churches. However, Christ Church breaks it down further and provides more line items to show more detail than most churches. She asked that Vestry members read the Financial Report prior to each meeting and to come with questions. Going forward, Jonathan will only spend 10 minutes reviewing the report and answering questions.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jonathan Gloster discussed the written Monthly Financial Report. He explained that he will be making a few changes and will reissue an amended report by the end of the week.

Carole Forsythe moved to approve the report and file for audit. The motion carried unanimously.

**Reports by Title**

**Rector's Report:** Artie Phillips reviewed the Rector's Report in The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis' absence. The items reviewed were: Future and Sustainability Task Force, Policy on Alcohol Use at Church Functions, the book *The Agile Church* and The Way of St. Paul. There were no comments or questions.

## **Committee Reports**

*Evangelism/Communication:* Committee Chair Beth Binde informed the members that in addition to what's included on the written report, she would like to inform the Vestry members that she is getting help on the website from an intern.

*Fellowship:* Committee Co-Chairs Effie Lamptey and Melisande Skillicorn informed members that in addition to what's included on the written report, there are sign-up sheets for Easter Sunday coffee hour. Being that a lot of guests are expected, they are asking people to volunteer to bring food.

*Fundraising/Special Events:* Austin Cooper informed members that he is looking for volunteers. Once identified, he will schedule a meeting before the end of March. He received clarification that volunteers do not need to be Vestry members, Vestry approval of the volunteers is not required and that the budget gap that needs to be closed by December 2015 is \$7,000.

Austin Cooper asked how often a fundraising event can take place. Members informed him that there isn't a limit. However, he should check with The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis and Julia Utz to see what events are taking place in the church. Beth Binde reminded everyone that the on-line church calendar also lists the events taking place. In addition, it was stated that events should not take place during the weeks of Stewardship Campaign (October through early November).

Austin Cooper stated that he may get the choir from Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina to perform in October.

It was also discussed that Italian Night/Spaghetti Dinner night should be considered as a fundraiser; they are also fun fellowship events that are well attended.

## **New Business**

*The Way of St. Paul:* Sheila Cooper discussed The Way of St. Paul. She stated that the Missional Leadership Committee was established prior to this offering. Christ Church will benefit from their tools and resources. The application for this program is due by the end of March. Joanna is reaching out to Rob Droste, Dwight Zscheile and John Roberto to get their perspectives on running both programs concurrently.

John Ager asked what the commitment is. Sheila Cooper explained that both programs are 18 months and that the cost for The Way of St. Paul is \$1,800; each Vestry member could sponsor a month to make the cost more manageable. We are committed to Missional Leadership because The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis is a grant recipient. Sheila Cooper asked the Vestry members to vote: do we accept in principle and support financially for The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis to move forward with the research. The vote was to move forward was unanimous.

*The Parochial Report:* Artie Phills reviewed the report and explained that it requires the signature of the Clerk and the Treasurer and will be recorded in our registry. There were no comments or questions.

**Deacon Ordination:** Artie Phillips informed the Vestry members that Ali Van Kuiken will be ordained a Deacon on June 3, at 7 PM at The Cathedral in Trenton. We are the sponsoring church. Therefore, all Vestry Members need to sign the form. The form was passed around for signatures.

**Bookkeeper position:** Carole Forsythe informed the Vestry members that she, Artie Phillips, Sheila Cooper and Jonathan Gloster interviewed two good candidates for the Bookkeeper position. They will have further discussion and provide feedback to The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis with their recommendation for hire. The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis will then speak with both candidates and make a decision.

**The Agile Church:** Sheila Cooper informed the Vestry members that the book is being read by the Missional Leadership Committee and that the Vestry will start reading it as well. We will discuss one to two chapters during our monthly Vestry meetings in place of Dwelling in the Word. Sheila Cooper took a tally of who wanted to purchase the book (\$14) and who would download it onto their e-reader.

**Topics on the Mind of the Vestry:** Artie Phillips mentioned that checks are being cut two times per month and that it's encouraged that the committee chair signs the voucher.

Sheila Cooper informed everyone that 30 people attended the pancake dinner on February 17; \$140 was raised. All products were donated and some are left over and can be used for Italian Night.

Mel Garber informed everyone that on April 26, Sierra Leone – Creole Descendants Union Committee is hosting coffee hour.

The meeting adjourned on consent with Compline.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra P. Lowe  
Clerk of the Vestry