

**Christ Church**  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting of the Vestry  
Tuesday, October 11, 2016

**Present:** The Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis, Rector's Warden Artie Phills, Vestry members: John Ager, Beth Binde (via phone), Carole Forsythe, Mel Garber, Jean Houvener, Mervis Johnson, Penelope Lattimer (arrived at 7:21 p.m.), Debra Lowe, Andrew Murphy (arrived at 7:13 p.m.), and Beverly Stott

**Also Present:** Treasurer Jonathan Gloster (via phone), Seminarian Laura Di Panfilo

**Absent:** People's Warden Sheila Cooper, Vestry members: Austin Cooper, Patricia Warren

Rev'd Joanna P. Hollis called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with opening prayer

Dwelling in the Word was *Why Not, if it is for Christ?* by Denis C. Brunelle

***Review of Consent Agenda:***

***Stewardship:*** Stewardship Committee Chair Andrew Murphy submitted a written Stewardship report. He reminded Vestry members of the dinner with the guest speaker on October 23, at 6 p.m. at Panico's; spouses and significant others are invited to attend. He passed around a sign-up sheet for dinner and stated that contributions of \$30 will be accepted. Rev'd Hollis stressed the importance of all Vestry members attending.

***Rector's Report:*** Rev'd Hollis submitted a written Rector's report. She stated that Jim Nichols will chair the Annual Meeting Committee. Appointed to the committee are: People's Warden Sheila Cooper and Vestry members: Beth Binde, Mel Garber, Debra Lowe and Andrew Murphy. Allen Abbott will be Congregant at Large and Paul Ambos will be Parliamentarian.

The consent agenda was moved for approval with one correction to the minutes. On page 2 paragraph 5: Jean Houvener, not Andrew Murphy, opposed having a special Vestry Meeting to discuss the MMR.

***Treasurer's Report:*** Treasurer Jonathan Gloster highlighted several items. Expenses seemed high for the month of September. We were behind budget in pledges; plate was higher. Jonathan explained that Paul Ambos will cut off Shop Script at the end of the year so that he is able to get an accurate assessment. To date, there has been a profit of approximately \$1,350. Overall, we are approximately \$2,300 behind projected deficit.

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

***Correspondence:*** Clerk of the Vestry Debra Lowe reported that Christ Church New Brunswick (CCNB) was mentioned in the August issue of *New Jersey Service Worker*. Artie Phills and Doug Wilson were thanked for making space available to house Eastern Service Worker's Association's operations since December 2015.

Vestry member Beverly Stott mentioned that CCNB was mentioned in The Home News regarding Rev'd Hollis' blessing of the animals at the Franklin Township Animal Shelter. The shelter indicated that they will have the blessing again in 2017.

### **Old Business**

***Mutual Ministry Review check-in:*** Rev'd Hollis reminded members of the Vestry that the MMR reports for each ministry identified are due to Kim Fletcher on Friday, October 14, 2016. All questions should be directed to Kim as well. Rev'd Hollis mentioned that Kim was taken to Haiti to assist victims of the hurricane. Vestry member Carole Forsythe asked who is responsible for the Food Pantry report. Rev'd Hollis stated that Vestry Member Mel Garber should complete the report and consult with Carole.

***Food Pantry:*** Rev'd Hollis indicated that the Food Pantry Board received the letter from the Vestry and has responded to the Vestry and parish. The letter was read at both services two Sundays ago and it was published in Close Call. Rev'd Hollis indicated that the Board decided that Judith Kuldinow will take the lead temporarily. They are thinking of how to break the functions down, so that the lead responsibilities do not fall on one person. The Board has received several offers for volunteers, but not for leadership. Vestry member Carole Forsythe stated that they are trying to restructure. The Board will meet again to reassess. Vestry member Jean Houvener mentioned that the letter from the Food Pantry Board was well written and heartfelt.

### **New Business**

***Vestry Meeting – November 8, 2016 (Election Day):*** The next Vestry meeting falls on Election Day. Rev'd Hollis presented two options: 1) Have a one-hour meeting from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. or 2) Move the meeting to a different day. All Vestry members agreed to a one-hour meeting. Rev'd Hollis asked that all reports be submitted on time.

***Mustard Seed Fund:*** Vestry member Carole Forsythe suggested moving the Mustard Seed Account, which totals \$174,000 from the Vanguard Funds to the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT). Moving the funds to DIT would earn a higher rate of return (\$1.98 per share per year).

***Request from Ali Van Kuiken:*** Ali is now the Chaplain at Ann Klein Forensic Center. She sent a letter to CCNB and approximately 10 other parishes asking for a pledge of \$400 or some other amount, to hire a part-time Chaplain Assistant. It is a one-time monetary commitment as Ali will be going to the state next year for the funding. The Vestry members agreed to support Ali. It was suggested that the request be put in Close Call, Parish Notes and that a special appeal be made the next few Sundays during announcements. Checks can be made payable to CCNB and one check will be sent.

Vestry member John Ager informed the Vestry members that he combined feedback gathered from previous parish meetings so that it could be used for the Day of Discernment. The Rev'd Hollis stated that this day will be different than previous parish meetings. Rev'd Hollis, Laura and Kim are drafting a plan for the Day of Discernment. The focus will be "how do we listen to God's call for us" There will be a lot of time spent in silent prayer; sit, pray, listen. It's very important for all Vestry members to be there. Because it's a new and different for CCNB, information about the day will be sent to the parish

ahead of time. Success will be measured if people come, sit, pray and are present. If the Vestry has a suggestion for the day, they should email Rev'd Hollis, Laura and Kim.

***Key Talking Points:***

The three talking points that we want to share with parish are:

1. Day of Discernment
2. Mustard Seed Account
3. Ali's request
4. New Consecration Sunday

***Topics on the Mind of the Vestry:***

About \$215 has been raised for a second snow blower. Vestry member Beverly Stott mentioned that the weather prediction is for a bad winter. It was discussed that a new, heavy duty snow blower be purchased for CCNB. The Vestry members making announcements the next few Sundays should make an appeal for donations to go towards purchasing a second snow blower.

There isn't an update on the Estate of Gladys K. Anderson. Rev'd Hollis will contact the attorney and provide an update at the next Vestry meeting.

Rev'd Hollis mentioned that the Executive Council Eucharist Service on October 21, 2016 will be at 9:30 a.m. Ushers are needed; everything else is taken care of. She will try to record the service.

The meeting adjourned on consent with Compline at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debra P. Lowe  
Clerk of the Vestry