

Iona-Hope Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 3:30 p.m.

Attending: The Rev. Jenny Scott-Jones, Rector

Vestry: Paula Paquette, Senior Warden

Alison Kinch, Junior Warden (exc)

Marcia Leidig Deb Prather Rob Ricca (exc)

John Hufnagle Neil Tousley Steve Walsh

Treasurer: Joe Mulino **Assistant to the Treasurer:** Thom Price

Thrift Shop: Eileen Carrara **Media Director:** Margaret Carr

Sextons: Ken and Donna Owens

Excused: Linda Griffin (Vestry) Victoria Lines (Clerk)

Opening Concerns/Prayer

Opening Prayer Psalm 27:1, 5-6, 10-11

Expression of prayers of concern and thanksgiving.

Approval of previous minutes January 21, 2025

Steve motion to approve, Deb second . All in favor.

Approval of Annual Meeting minutes

Marcia motion to approve, John second . All in favor.

Thrift Store Update: Eileen Carrara

Everything is going well at the thrift shop. Some more community volunteers have stepped up. No more people from Iona-Hope, but community people have stepped up. It's time to advertise the grants again. Ending date of May 16, 2025, and release the criteria now. Maybe there are additional organizations that would like to apply. Release on March 16. We can send a reminder on April

16. We will reach out to those who applied last year if we do not hear from them. April 6 is the volunteer appreciation party at 3:00 pm. In The Gathering Place. We did make calls last year when we had not heard from some. Discussion on whether we ask for follow-up from the organizations asking how the money was spent and what used for. Everyone seemed to think that would be a swell idea. We have the concert band trailer here when it's empty. We are establishing great relationships with organizations which have been supported.

Finance: Joe Mulino

Welcome to newest Vestry members John and Neil. Any questions on the statement or the recap? Why a negative balance under special contributions? We were \$996 short concerning the lights in the sanctuary. That will disappear as more donations are received for that.

There is a new category for tracking interest on the money market account for the Thrift Shop. \$478.92 was received in interest for one month from the money market.

The pan underneath one of the AC units for the sanctuary is rusted. We feel the unit itself may be rusted also. Marnie's husband is an AC tech. He is going to try to assist in seeing if the unit really needs to be replaced. We received one estimate for \$35,000. If it does need to be replaced, then we will look for new estimates. The AC is about 25 years old. The unit is working but it is overworking. We are trying to keep the temperature up when the building is not in use.

Steve met with Kingdom Restoration concerning some mold that may be reappearing near the Rector's office. There may be some moisture issue at the sanctuary. There may be some moisture entering because of vertical cracks on the sanctuary. We may need to caulk the cracks and that may address the issue.

There is only \$10,000 left on the line of credit. We might need to fund an AC replacement through a withdrawal from the Thrift Shop allocation.

Let's make sure we get three bids for the AC unit.

Lumen cost would be \$152.10 for internet via fiber optic. That is renewal of the contract. Neil motion to implement this agreement, Steve second. All in favor.

Patty emailed re Pave the Way Pavers. The cost would be \$700 to put in the few bricks leading to the font. We will look at and try to DIY the pavers. That cost seems too high.

Storm shutter. We are trying to get them to come back down. No success yet. We have reached out to a company to repair them on April 1. \$215 per hour for two men to repair the shutters. They are bringing their own equipment. We need to repair the shutters prior to Holy Week.

Can we try to find out who in our congregation can try to do some of these repair projects? We might be able to save a ton of money.

Motion to approve the financials as presented, Deb. Second, Marcia. All in favor.

Stewardship and Fundraising

Deb is the chair of this event. Do we want to change the auction to focus more on the air conditioning unit? Deb has prepared a wonderful outline for the auction for smaller line item expenses of the church. They bid on paying a regular expense and they get a prize in exchange for it. We are about \$100,000 short in terms of revenue to meet our anticipated expenses for this year.

The fundraiser is on March 30 at 10:30 am. MYSTERY SILENT AUCTION.

Joe and Rob will take care of the Mimosas part of the fundraiser.

Alison will do some of the setup.

Jackie Renner and Paula will work on decorations.

Set up on Saturday for a preview. 34 bid sheets. 34 mystery gifts. We need gifts. Gift certificates. We have a massage certificate. Two tickets to Broadway Palm. Vestry members should each provide two certificate items. Deb is the gift master. Text her with your contributions. We have eight items so far.

After the 9:30 service, at about 10:45, Loren will play some music. Covers will come off the tables and they will be open for bidding. Larry Hanson will be the master of ceremonies. After about a half an hour, people can go to The Gathering Place for the meal. Bidding will take place in the Sanctuary. We will have food on a stick in The Gathering Place. Food and desserts. After a tally, the boxes and winning bid announcements will come over to The Gathering Place and the winners will be announced. Checks will be made out to Iona-Hope, by the winning bidder.

Selling gift cards as a fundraiser. John reported on this. RaiseRight. 25 years established. Concerning selling gift cards. Now, the gift cards are done virtually. Iona-Hope could get a percentage of any "gift cards" we can sell. We can give it out to friends and family. It can be for groceries, Amazon, hardware stores. Some stores give 2-3 percent. Some up to 10 percent. The shopper has to do like

30 seconds of extra to use such a "gift card". We would just need an account number to send the proceeds to. Organizations set up a separate account to receive the monies.

A consumer would download the app onto their phone. You would then purchase gift cards for retailers you use. Then, you would shop at those retailers and use the money stashed on line in your RaiseRight app.

Marnie will try to get us registered with RaiseRight. The Vestry will register ourselves and try to use the app so that we can give that a try. We will pilot it. We can start with others amongst us after the Mystery Silent Auction, like on April 1. We will need to do training on this.

Announcements/Upcoming/Programs

Upcoming Events/Services – Lent and Holy Week will be advertised this week. There will be three movie nights and a Quiet Day. Our theme for Lent is Reconciliation. This Saturday night will be a pancake supper to benefit the Animal Ministry.

Welcome Ministries –

Interfaith Ministry – Rabbi Luna is the next Interfaith presenter.

LIFE Justice Ministry – Board meeting was held a week ago. The consultant has firmed up a plan for rebuilding LIFE in Lee County. There will be a Nehemiah Action next in 2027. There will be an active rebuilding time. Donations are welcome, of course. The ministry will be re-grown. Our Bishop Doug Scharf thinks this is a great organization and is encouraging churches to participate. There is a new Catholic Bishop and there may be participation from some Catholic churches may participate.

We need to find someone to receive and contact potential new members who complete a yellow card. Linda used to do this.

Reports

Junior Warden – Items discussed previously.

Senior Warden – Nothing additional.

Rector – Two groups are asking to use our facilities. If it is a one off, Rector makes a decision. If it is a regular group, the Vestry is included in decision-making.

One is an AlAnon group that wants to meet here at the same time as the AA group Friday evenings. AlAnon would meet in the library. We probably need to give her a max number of people to fit in the library – 10-14? If they exceed that, they would have to meet elsewhere. And, they cannot interfere with the AA meeting; they would use separate doors.

Suggestion to let this go forward, to try this for six months and then re-assess. Steve, motion to give it a six month trial, second Deb. All in favor.

A small Pentecostal Latin church plant has requested to use our facilities. They have been meeting in a home and want to move to a church space because they have outgrown the home. They would use The Gathering Place. They are not asking to use the Sanctuary. Three times a week. We will need to coordinate any furniture moving. They think they can offer \$1000-\$1200 per month for a donation.

Thursday 7:30 pm, Saturday 7:30 pm, Sunday 12 noon or 1 pm are their preferred days.

Once we think we want to move forward with this, we will approach the Diocese to take any necessary steps that would be required. The Diocese requires review of leases. We will certainly take proper action concerning insurance, liability issues, etc.

Gladiolus Food Pantry THANKED Iona-Hope for donating 714 pounds of December and January. PLUS, we donated monies.

Parochial Report approval. We need to approve it to submit it to the Diocese. Victoria Lines will sign as the Clerk. Senior Warden and Treasurer also sign. Marnie worked on all the finances and statistics. Paula wrote some of the narratives. Discussion.

Motion to approve the Parochial Report Deb, seconded by Steve. All in favor.

Agenda for Vestry meeting will be sent ahead of the meeting. This time was just the basic agenda, so copies were provided at the meeting.

We need more people coming into the church. That's the way we will grow and increase our revenues.

Adjournment

NEXT MEETING TBD as the Vestry Retreat is occurring today and tomorrow. We will verify what a good day and time is for everyone.