Christ Church Vestry Meeting
June 22, 2021 – via Zoom

**Evening Prayer** at 6:40 p.m. was led by the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons

**Attending**
Clergy: Noelle York-Simmons, Lauren Banks Killelea
2022: Marilyn Bromley, Carol Donlan (Sr Warden), Mary Dixon Hutcheson
2023: Betsy Hahn, Brett Levanto (Jr Warden), Liz Nelson, Anne Ramsey
2024: Sean Dalton, John Grey, Elizabeth Trigg, Libby Witt
Others: Jason Abel, Jilinda Crowley, Jessica Hughes, Anne Richardson

**Call to Order and Opening Prayer**
The Rev. Noelle York-Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Betsy Hahn offered the Opening Prayer.

**Worship Report – Noelle York-Simmons**
All worship services are inside the church. Occasionally special services may be held outdoors. During July, there will be Communion of one kind (bread only) at the Wednesday and Sunday services. Masks will be required for all services, but registration will no longer be required. The balcony will be closed to general seating. At the Sunday 10 a.m. service, distanced seating will not be required, and the nursery will be staffed. There will be no in-person coffee hour or children’s chapel, but those activities will return when appropriate. At the Sunday 8 a.m. service, distanced pews will be required, and the nursery will not be staffed. Meredith Bracco and Anne Richardson will handle the livestream production of the 10 a.m. service. Four volunteers are needed on a rotating basis to run the livestream. Parish buildings are slowly being opened for small group meetings. Masks are required within common spaces but can come off in the meeting room. In the fall, Sunday School will probably be held in-person. There will be a Confirmation class this year.

**Balcony Project – Jason Abel**
Jason Abel is obtaining two bids for modifying the pews nearest the organ on both sides (where the choir sits). The new organ will take up less space but there will be a different configuration making space for musicians problematic. Hinges would allow the pew seats to lift to give room for several instrumentalists and their music stands. Bids will be solicited from Kevin Alicia, who modified the handicapped pew, and Russel Gage, who repaired the balcony. Work could be completed before the organ arrives. Jason answered several questions from the vestry. Barry Stauffer from the Properties Committee has been included in discussions. The money to pay for the modifications could come from the music budget, Friends of Music, and the Properties Committee.

**Fowler House/Our Calling, Our Campus (OCOC) – Noelle York-Simmons**
Emily Bryan intends to be at the August vestry meeting to provide a summary of the Our Calling, Our Campus (OCOC) feedback. There have been two rounds of small group talk sessions (about 70 people) and two surveys. These surveys disclosed a deep-rooted love for Christ Church.
Parishioners showed a widespread recognition that we have a once-in-a-generation moment to change our direction, because of the current situation with the Fowler House/Ross Building. Some longtime parishioners have never been in Fowler House. We are considering providing facilities tours, possibly video tours. Anne Richardson, Noelle, and the wardens will be putting together a menu of options and costs. The vestry is urged to encourage people to fill out the final survey by July 15.

**Organ Update – Noelle York-Simmons**

Christ Church still owes $37,000 to Harrison and Harrison for the organ. Installation, travel, and housing costs are about $28,500, for a total of $55,500. The reserve fund is owed $246,000. There is no news from the anonymous donor. Should we need funds before we receive the donor funds, Noelle will solicit $20,000 interest-free loans from several members of the congregation. We are still the organ to arrive in the fall.

**Offutt Fund Investment Committee Nominations – Carol Donlan and Jessica Hughes**

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Jessica Hughes, nominated David Fenstermaker and Fred Knops to be on the Vestry Investment Committee for the Offutt Fund. Both have solid experience in investments and have agreed to serve. Brett Levanto moved that we appoint the two to the Vestry Investment Committee for the Offutt Fund. Betsy Hahn seconded. The motion passed.

The Senior and Junior Wardens and the Treasurer are automatically on the committee. Carol Donlan nominated vestry members Bob Cady, Sean Dalton, Mary Dixon Hutcheson, and Liz Nelson to be on the Vestry Investment Committee for the Offutt Fund. Marilyn Bromley seconded. The motion passed.

Jessica Hughes’ term is ending, and we are looking for a new Nominations Committee chairperson.

**Stewardship Report – Anne Richardson**

In early June, members of the Stewardship Committee and Anne Richardson met with lay leaders to discuss our 2022 parish finances, which clearly show the need for increased giving. In the upcoming Stewardship Campaign, all will be asked to increase their pledges by 10 percent. It is important for vestry members to take the lead and to prayerfully consider increasing their pledges by at least 10 percent.

The Stewardship Committee will be providing FAQs so vestry members can answer parishioners’ questions. Several points are that people care deeply about Christ Church, they value their own involvement, and their fondest memories are of sacramental moments. Marilyn Bromley asked for a short “elevator speech” to assist in encouraging parishioners to increase their pledge.

The Stewardship Committee and about 80 volunteers will gather in person on July 17, 18, 24, and 25 to handwrite postcards to all in the parish inviting them to Welcome Sunday.
**Treasurer’s Report – Jilinda Crowley**

Last month’s statistics are similar to the previous month. Last month revenue exceeded expenses by $175,000 due to forgiveness of the PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) loan.

Because no volunteer parishioner has been found to conduct the 2018 and 2019 in-house mini-audits, Jilinda recommended having them done by our auditors. The cost to conduct two mini-audits plus the full audit for 2020 is about $25,000 over what was budgeted. Sean Dalton moved to use the auditors to conduct the 2018 and 2019 mini-audits and the full 2020 audit. Brett Levanto seconded the motion. The motion passed. The funds will come from the Reserve Fund since they were not in the budget.

The loose plate offering has dropped dramatically in the pandemic and is expected to continue that way until regular in-service collections resume. Noelle has been promoting Text-to-Give and giving through the Shelby app.

**Rector’s Report – Noelle York-Simmons**

Noelle had no update on Robbie Laughton’s arrival date to begin as Youth Pastor. He is volunteering at Shrine Mont during July. Senator Kane’s office staff said they will do their best to expedite the Robbie’s visa. Noelle thanked parishioners Holly Levanto and Elizabeth Trigg for leading the youth while we wait. Lauren Killelea and Ariel Rudy have been filling in on Formation. Noelle is feeling very short-staffed and looking for a supply priest to help before Robbie comes. She is celebrating Lauren’s ordination.

Noelle is looking forward to her vacation. She reflected that in her nearly five years at Christ Church, there have been many crises met and bold decisions made. Senior Warden Carol Donlan will be in charge while Noelle is on vacation; handoff is Tuesday, July 6. Frank Wade will be handling Sunday services and “emergency” sacraments and pastoral care.

**Warden’s Report – Carol Donlan and Brett Levanto**

Carol talked about stretching pledges to 10 percent. Carol will call Frank Wade tomorrow. She encouraged all vestry members to introduce themselves to Frank at Sunday services. She also suggested Googling Frank Wade’s sermons. They are outstanding.

Brett Levanto is looking forward to in-person vestry meetings. He will poll the vestry by email asking who would be ready to meet in person in August and if not, when. The church is considering buying an Owl eye, which would allow in-person meetings to also have video participants.

Liz Nelson asked if there are vestry pins. Carol will order them and distribute them when the vestry is together. Worship Support and Rector’s Assistant Michelle Baize is cleaning up the nametag board.

**Consent Agenda**

Sean moved that the May vestry meeting minutes be approved as corrected; Mary Dixon seconded. The motion passed.
Announcements & Upcoming Events
- No vestry meeting – July 27
- Vestry Meeting – August 24
- Come see Washington’s bible on July 4.

Closing Prayer
Liz Nelson offered the closing prayer.
The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.