Christ Church Vestry Meeting  
April 26, 2022 – Hybrid (in person and via Owl/Zoom)  

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

**Attending**  
Clergy: Noelle York-Simmons, Lauren Banks*  
2023: Betsy Hahn, Brett Levanto (Sr. Warden), Liz Nelson, Anne Ramsey  
2024: John Grey,* Elizabeth Trigg,* Libby Witt (Jr. Warden)  
2025: Jack Hutcheson, Susan Magill,* Andrea McNicholas, Tom Suydam  
Others: Jilinda Crowley,* Anne Richardson  
*via Zoom  

**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.  

**Vote on 112 N. Washington St. Proposal – Noelle York-Simmons**  
Brett moved to accept the Fowler House Committee recommendation for development of the 112 N. Washington St. property; Tom Suydam seconded. The motion passed. The vestry is grateful for all the work that has been done to bring this to fruition. Next, the Committee will begin contract negotiations with Donohoe. The vestry will follow committee guidance on when to notify the congregation.  

**Spring2Action – Anne Richardson**  
Tomorrow, April 27, is Alexandria’s day of giving—Spring2Action. The beneficiary of donations to Christ Church will be the Refugee Ministry. The goal is to raise $16,000 from Spring2ACTion contributions to match $16,000 in grants from Grace Episcopal Church and Immanuel Church on the Hill, for a total of $32,000. Anne requested that vestry members spread the word on Facebook and other social media, as well as emails. A parish-wide email, containing links and a video, will be sent at 6 a.m. tomorrow.  

**Treasurer’s Report – Jilinda Crowley**  
March revenue was $2,000 more than budgeted, but year-to-date revenue was just under $17,000 less than planned. Salaries and benefits are behind the plan, and we expect this to continue until Robbie Laughten joins the staff. The Fowler House Admin/General expenses in March are the annual reconciliation of common area maintenance with Ross against the $15,000 that was already paid. Overall expenses were very close to budget this month and were nearly $34,000 lower than budgeted year-to-date. Overall, our revenue in March exceeded expenses by $1,796 and for year-to-date we have run a deficit of $1,633—lower than expected.  

**Youth Minister Update – Noelle York-Simmons**  
Our lawyer is looking into why Robbie Laughten’s visa application seems to have been skipped over as the State Department is working on visas submitted two months later than Robbie’s. The
State Department is overworked and understaffed. We will start the Diocese paperwork for ordaining Robbie to save time when his visa is approved. Noelle is pleased that Robbie sees Youth Ministry as a career choice.

Rector’s Report – Noelle York-Simmons
Holy week was flawless. Easter attendance was good after two years of Covid disruptions. Jason Abel, our organist, was married this past Saturday. The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson preached and performed baptisms and confirmations this past Sunday; the reception following the 10 a.m. service exhibited Christ Church’s southern hospitality. Noelle praised the “This I Believe” dinner when confirmands give their statements of faith. Eucharist with wine is working well, which other parishes are taking note of. Textile artist Sheryl Sims will speak at the women’s luncheon on June 12 about making quilts to celebrate her family history. Shrine Mont registration is open. Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson will be unable to preach at Christ Church this spring for health reasons: we hope to reschedule his visit in the fall. Funeral Planning and Health Comfort forms will be on the new website. The vestry was encouraged to share with others the benefits of having this personal information on file at the church.

The vestry discussed who would be delegates to the Diocesan Convention. There will be one convention in June to elect a Bishop in addition to the usual convention in November. The delegates voting in June are Cindi Bartol, Andy Hoefer, Anna McClure and Russ Randle. One of the delegates will provide information about the four candidates for Bishop at the May vestry meeting. Andrea McNicholas suggested we look for ways to uplift the many parishioners (who are not delegates) doing great work in the diocese; it is likely that many parishioners don’t know about their work.

Wardens’ Reports – Brett Levanto and Libby Witt
Brett suggested vestry members add the other vestry members to their phone contacts list.

Tom Suydam asked if there should be a vestry liaison to racial reconciliation. Noelle said that there is no racial reconciliation committee because it is going on systemically through many activities at Christ Church, such as in the Outreach committee, Sacred Ground, and the Vestry History Project, which is researching larger-than-life people associated with Christ Church’s history. Tom requested that the vestry be briefed on the status and plans of the Vestry History Project.

Barry Stauffer prefers afternoon or weekends for tours of the Christ Church campus. Libby will break those who want tours into two groups. Libby noted that anyone can receive the Diocese of Virginia weekly email, which include requests for volunteers. The website is TheDiocese.net. The URL is https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/g0WyyGb.

Details of Evensong Reception – Anne Ramsey
The vestry-hosted reception after Evensong on May 1 will begin after the service, at about 6 p.m. Setup will begin about 4 p.m. so that vestry members can attend the service. Several members
offered to help with setup, clean-up, and serving at the wine table. Both sweet and savory finger foods are welcome. Both wine and flavored seltzer water will be served. Anything brought ahead of time (to the Meade Room kitchen) must be clearly marked that it is for the Evensong reception.

Consent Agenda – Brett Levanto
Votes to accept the March vestry meeting minutes, to accept the special “off-schedule” vestry meeting minutes, and to approve new vestry members of the Offutt Fund Investment Committee will be taken at the May vestry meeting. Existing members of the Offutt Fund Investment Committee have already been approved by the vestry.

Announcements & Upcoming Events
- Evensong (Hymn Fest) – May 1 (Vestry Hosts Reception)
- Youth Sunday – May 22
- Vestry Meeting – May 24
- Vestry Meeting – June 14 (note date change, 3rd Tuesday, not 4th)
- Shrine Mont Parish Weekend – June 17-19
- Camino de Santiago trip – June 21-30

Closing Prayer
Andrea McNicholas offered the closing prayer.
The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.