

Christ Church Vestry Meeting
January 28, 2025
In-Person & Zoom

Attendance

Clergy: Rev. Noelle York-Simmons & Rev. Robbie Laughton

Others: Julie Simonton, Anne Richardson, & Dave Rees

2025: Jack Hutcheson*, Andrea McNicholas, & Betsy Powell

2026: Steve Reed, Ken Knapp* & Jay Purcell Manchester

2027: Kathleen Hickman*, Chris Thompson*

* attended via Zoom

Absent: Susan Magill, Cornelia Horner, Nan Lawson & Wendy Montes de Oca

Call to Order & Opening Prayer

The Rev. Noelle York-Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Opening Prayer was led by Betsy Powell.

Consent Agenda - Steve Reed

Betsy Powell moved and Jay Purcell Manchester seconded to accept the December vestry meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Staff Introduction - Pouyan Meghdadian

- Pouyan reviewed various projects (e.g., repairs, paintings, church tower/steeple) completed in 2024 and ongoing research into projects for 2025
- Noelle thanked Pouyan for all of his work and time to keep improving the property, along with the Facilities Assistants
- A question was asked about how projects are prioritized and if there is a policy regarding how many bids are required
 - There are three bids solicited for each project and a recommendation is made
 - Vestry approves any expenses over \$10K
- Both elevators are old, maintenance contracts are in place, and replacement parts have been challenging to obtain by the maintenance vendor

Stewardship Report & Comprehensive Campaign - Julie Simonton

- 2024 giving - Just finished with \$20K more that will be applied to the 2024 budget
 - Will still likely receive some 2024 (planned) gifts coming in over the next few months
- 2025 giving - at 91% of goal which is on target
 - Increasing # of pledges coming in overall, and we also typically see additional pledges/members join during the summer

Capital giving -

- Julie Simonton discussed background of how capital campaign consultants were interviewed on two separate occasions by two different groups of parishioners during the last four years
- A question was asked about how to summarize the need underpinning a "Comprehensive Campaign"
 - Deferred maintenance and a litany of projects that need to be addressed
 - A campaign committee will be needed to help address priorities and is expected to be formed shortly (within a few weeks) of a Vestry approval to move forward
 - A feasibility study will help the church to come up with a larger plan
 - The Comprehensive Campaign concept is modeled off the Washington National Cathedral's initiative
- Jay Purcell Machester moved & Andrea McNicholas seconded that the Vestry proceed with a contract with Horizons to conduct a feasibility study (cost \$17,500). The motion passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report – Dave Rees

- 2024 numbers were closed out with a surplus \$12K + \$20K donation (late-breaking)
- Vestry approved budget for 2025 in December 2024
- Cash Flow is strong and suggested moving \$100K from Burke and Herbert to Merrill Lynch account
- December Revenue: \$389K
- December Expenses: \$169K
- Audit firm has most of the files that they need, and Leah is working with them to finish filling out the records
- There are two different Offutt Funds and a more descriptive name for the fund associated with the Fowler House portion is being generated

Executive Session

Steve Reed moved & Andrea McNicholas seconded that the vestry go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously, and executive session began at 8:35 pm

Fowler House Update - Rev. Noelle York-Simmons

Linder asked to suspend conversations until April. It was also noted that Linder has requested families to begin registering for next year.

Jack Hutcheson moved & Chris Thompson seconded the return from executive session. Executive session returned at 8:41 pm.

News & Notes

- Kudos to Elizabeth Trigg and the reception this past Sunday
- Vestry sponsoring the Evensong reception for this Sunday, February 2 in the Meade Room - please sign up
- Youth Ski trip went well (Thank you to Robbie and the chaperones)

Rector's Report - Rev. Noelle York-Simmons

- Hip surgery and recovery going well
- Special thanks to Robbie taking care of the Parish
- Wonderful service with special visitors (British Embassy, new Alexandria City Mayor)
- New tenants (6 offices) for Alfred Street Baptist Church Counseling Center are moving in - open to the community
- English Language Learners - working with the Campagna Center on planning around how to keep staff and volunteers safe in the event of ICE visits
 - Also, doing this planning for Lazarus and other programs
- Two donors gave to Lazarus (\$65K)
- Keeping contact records up-to-date
- Ariel processes the Newcomer cards and new people are coming to this church every week
- George Washington Parade - have 13 people signed up, looking for 20 people to have a Christ Church group participate

Warden's Reports - Steve Reed,

- Vestry nominations - wonderful group

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- 2 February – Evensong and Candlemas will be held.
- 16 February – Washington Bible Sunday
- 23 February – Annual Meeting
- 6 April (Lent 5) – Bishop Harris visit.

Closing Prayer

Jay Purcell Manchester offered the Closing Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.