

Christ Church Vestry Meeting
November 19, 2024
In-Person & Zoom

Attendance

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

Others: Julie Simonton, Anne Richardson*, Chris McMurray, & John Weaver

2025: Jack Hutcheson, Andrea McNicholas, Betsy Powell & Susan Magill

2026: Cornelia Horner, Ken Knapp* & Jay Purcell Manchester

2027: Kathleen Hickman*, Chris Thompson, Nan Lawson & Wendy Montes de Oca

* attended via Zoom

Absent: Steve Reed

Call to Order & Opening Prayer

The Rev. Noelle York-Simmons called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Opening Prayer was led by Jay Purcell Manchester.

Consent Agenda - Jay Purcell Manchester

It was moved and seconded to accept the October vestry meeting minutes as edited. The motion carried.

Executive Session

It was moved and seconded that the vestry go into executive session. The motion passed unanimously, and executive session began at 7:04 pm

Executive session returned at 7:45 pm

Stewardship Report - Julie Simonton

- 2025 Pledges are at 57% of a likely budget of \$1.645M with \$909K from 185 people.
- \$1.6M would be 3 ½ - 4 % increase year over year
- 2024 pledges are at 98% of our goal with \$1,540,823 from 368 people
- 85% of pledges have been received
- The Newcomers forum led to new pledges
- Pledges received are averaging a 6% increase per pledge
- Call nights are starting tomorrow and all are invited to join those
- The vestry is asked to help send handwritten thank you notes, and packets were passed around for folks to take and write as they are able
- Comprehensive Campaign - we have re-engaged with Horizons to discuss getting more information on how this can progress
- A discussion was had on how we communicate the deficit to the congregation and encourage end of year giving

Treasurer's Report – Anne Richardson

- Projections have us coming in with a deficit between \$40 & \$60K for 2024
- We have a good handle on what expenses will be, and year end giving projections based on the three year average should put us there
- Still waiting for an update from the auditor

- October Revenue: \$162K
- October Expenses: \$175K

2025-2026 Budget - Anne Richardson

We have been reviewing expenditure categories over recent months - this month's discussion is on the General & Administrative section

- the 2025 budget will be sent out at the end of this week
- Anne will offer times when she will be available for questions and discussions on the budget so we can pass the budget in december
- General & Admin are the critical infrastructure and cost of doing business expenses including many "fees"
- Third largest category
- Consideration will be given to reporting credit card fees against revenue rather than a separate fee
- What's included?
 - IT
 - Office Supplies & equipment - including bulletins!
 - Brochures & tourist materials
 - Audit/review fees
 - misc. external costs such as payroll, wedding & funeral fees, etc.

A Conversation was held around revenue and what the future of Fowler House will do to that.

There was also a conversation about whether there are expenses that could have any room for changes, and we were reminded of the sessions to join for detailed discussions.

Those sessions will be Dec. 5 at 6 pm, Dec. 7 at 8 am and Dec 13 at Noon.

Foundation Trustee - Rev. Noelle York-Simmons

- The Christ Church Foundation brings on a new trustee or two every year, and this nominee should be voted on by the vestry
- We recently learned that this hasn't been happening, but the procedures have been clarified and will be followed moving forward.
- The Foundation have a nominee to present this year in Steve Humphrey

It was moved and seconded to approve Steve Humphrey as the newest trustee of the Foundation. The motion passed unanimously.

News & Notes

- Kathleen reported that the Thanksgiving Market has a full slate of volunteers for this weekend & Christ Child project is looking for volunteers
- Lazarus Ministry is in need of funds to re-open
- Susan reported on her attendance at the Diocesan Convention and Noelle's prominent role in the worship
- Jay commended our seminarian Kevin on his work with the Sunday School and children's chapel

Rector's Report - Rev. Noelle York-Simmons

- Security updates have taken place to rekey the outside doors of all of the buildings as well as any door that has access via a fob to different keys. The original "blue keys" still open the doors to public rooms. The fobs are much more manageable in that they can be turned on and off if lost or not returned.
- There is an opportunity to offer Alfred Street Baptist Church some office space for their counseling center. They hope to move in January and would pay some rent.
- Noelle is working to petition the diocese to commission a deacon for a nominal fee
- She will have surgery on her hip in early January and will be out for a couple of weeks followed by crutches, so we will need supply clergy for those weeks.

Warden's Report - Jay Purcell Manchester

- Thank you to all who have completed the Safe Church training - we have more than 85% of the vestry completed.
- Staff reports aren't always discussed during our meetings, so all are encouraged to reach out to the staff directly if you have thoughts or questions.

Announcements & Upcoming Events

- Gift Shop Christmas Market this Sunday, November 23
- Thanksgiving Market this Saturday, November 22
- Looking for a date in February for family BINGO night to raise funds for the nursery & the Ladray BINGO ministry is happy to donate supplies and callers

Closing Prayer

Cornelia Horner offered the Closing Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.