

May 25, 2023 – 5:00 PM
Holy Faith Vestry
Youth Room, Conkey House
The Church of the Holy Faith

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr Robin Dodge, Mike Morrissey, Vann Bynum, Steven Berkshire, Chris Frenk, Kaki Grubbs, Peter Lockyer, Mark Everett, Charles Rountree

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ruth Rael

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT: Fr Jim Gordon

- **Call to Order**
Fr Robin called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and led the Vestry in prayer.
- **Acceptance of the Agenda**
Mike moved, and Steven seconded acceptance of the agenda as revised. *Carried unanimously.*
- **Disposition of the April 27th, 2023 Vestry Minutes**
Steven moved, and Vann seconded the acceptance of the Minutes of the April 27th, 2023 Vestry meeting. *Carried unanimously.*
- **Bible Study**
Fr Robin led the Vestry in Bible study on John 7: 37-39
- **April 2023 Financial Reports – Steven Berkshire**
Steven presented the April Treasurer’s report noting that Income for April was \$149,692 and operating expenses total \$107,082. Netted with other income and expenses the month ended with a \$45,712 surplus. The year-to-date deficit is \$(65,054).

The cash balances at March 31st were:

• Century Bank	\$153K
• First Citizens	\$140K
• Sunflower	\$ 2.5K
• Sunflower Money Market	\$237K

The cash balances for all accounts, as reported on April 26th was \$522,604.

Steven noted that disbursements available in 2023 from the endowments are:

• Capital	\$308,840
• Library	\$ 19,353
• Women’s Guild	\$ 18,808
• Mission & Outreach	\$ 17,495

The Vestry accepted the April financials as recommended by the Finance Committee, unanimously.

Steven then reported that the Finance Committee reviewed the year-to-date financial statements and recognized the shortfall between contributions and expenses is unsustainable. A projection of the year-end position indicates a deficit of \$(207K). He went on to note that the Finance Committee crafted a statement for presentation to the Vestry:

The Finance Committee recommends to the Vestry that we must cut expenses with reductions considered in all areas especially music, staffing, and printing. Efforts will continue to encourage increased giving. An announcement will be made at all services.

In discussion, it was emphasized that endowments are specified to support library, granting, and capital expenses while operating costs are supported almost entirely from congregational giving. In the event that congregational giving does not increase to address the projected deficit, specific expense reductions will be identified at the June meeting and implemented at that time Peter Lockyer offered to make an announcement at the June 4th 7:30 service, Mark Everett offered to make an announcement at the June 11th 8:30 service, and Mike Morrissey offered to make an announcement at the June 11th 11:00 service.

The Vestry accepted the statement drafted by the Finance Committee unanimously.

- **Junior Warden's Report – Vann Bynum**

The Vestry reviewed projects that have been undertaken, completed, and pending. Vann reported that the boiler replacement will begin in June and will take approximately three weeks. There should be few, if any, disruptions.

- **Senior Warden's Report – Mike Morrissey**

Mike began by emphasizing that *in order to flourish, the parish cannot hesitate to increase giving and pursue cost reductions*. He noted that pledges have decreased each year from 251 households totaling \$973K in 2018 to 199 households in 2023 totaling \$810K. In addition, the average pledge has remained roughly flat during that time. In discussion, suggestions were considered to bring the issue to the parish. A 'Day of Prayer' was suggested to spiritually and communally address the issue. In addition, it was suggested that advice be solicited from parishioners for continued efforts.

Charles moved, and Mark seconded, empowering the Executive Committee to go forward with a prayerful gathering to solicit ideas to increase giving. *Carried unanimously*

- **Rector's Report – Fr Robin Dodge**

Fr. Robin began by noting that May 31st is Fr Jim's final day as Holy Faith's Associate Rector. As is customary, protocols for retired clergy are discussed and agreed upon. A diocesan memorandum of understanding was presented to the Vestry that was signed by both Fr Jim and Fr Robin and will be forwarded to Bishop Hunn for his signature. Fr Robin noted that Fr Jim believes it is healthy for himself, Andi, and the parish to have a time of separation. Fr Robin noted that Fr Jim departs with our wholehearted blessings and support.

The survey task force continues work with a draft survey. The task force serves as a subcommittee of the Vestry and their work will be reviewed for approval by the Vestry at the June meeting.

- **Associate Rector's Report – Fr Jim Gordon**

Fr. Jim began by thanking each member of the Vestry and, through them, all previous Vestries. He concluded by stating it has been a privilege and pleasure to serve at Holy Faith.

- **Other Business**

There being no further business, Charles moved, and Mike seconded adjourning the meeting. *Carried unanimously.* The meeting concluded at with prayer at 6:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Rountree