

**September 28, 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,  
Ruth Rael, Kaki Grubbs, Peter Lockyer, Charles Rountree

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Everett

- **Call to Order**  
Fr Robin called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM and led the Vestry in prayer.
- **Acceptance of the Agenda**  
Steven moved, and Ruth seconded acceptance of the agenda. *Carried unanimously.*
- **Disposition of the Minutes from the August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Vestry Meetings**  
Steven moved, and Mike seconded the acceptance of the minutes of the August 24<sup>th</sup> Vestry meeting.  
*Carried unanimously.*
- **Bible Study**  
Fr Robin led the Vestry in Bible study on Matthew 11: 25-30
- **August 2023 Financial Reports – Steven Berkshire**  
Steven reported that communicating financial information and funding challenges resulted in new and increased pledges from 214 households totaling \$943K. The improved financial position anticipates closing the year without a deficit however efforts must continue to encourage giving and control expenses. Steven noted that over the past several years, expenses have consistently increased while contributions have remained relatively flat. For August, operating totaled \$89,551 and operating expenses totaled \$104,230 resulting in a deficit of \$(14,546) for the operation of the parish. Netted with other income and expenses, the month ended with a \$(13,151) deficit and a year-to-date net deficit of \$(14,833). Steven also noted that the clear reporting of contributions restricted to specific programs continues to be an issue. In discussion, a suggestion was made to report the totality of financial without bifurcating operating and non-operating.

The cash position remains solid and the balances as of August 31<sup>st</sup> are:

• Century Bank	\$162K
• First Citizens	\$191K
• Sunflower	\$ 2.5K
• Sunflower Money Market	\$238K

The August month-end value of the endowments total \$8.911M reflecting a market downturn decreasing in value from the July month-end value of \$9.605M

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

Steven concluded by reporting that prior issues with the language and accuracy of the 2022 audit appeared to have been addressed but the Finance Committee did not have sufficient time for a thorough assessment. The Finance Committee postponed approval of the audit pending a complete review.

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

Vann reported that the new boilers had been installed and passed inspection. Recovery of the freon in the air-conditioning system in Conkey House will begin prior to installation which is scheduled for the final week of September. The air handlers will not be replaced at this time but can be undertaken at a later date if problems occur. The cost of the new system is expected to be approximately \$120K. A generous donor has offered to underwrite the cost of improving the air conditioning in the choir room which has been problematic. Vann concluded by noting that testing and inspection of the alarm system by the Fire Marshal has been scheduled and, assuming a successful outcome, the project (began three years ago) will be completed.

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

Mike reported that the Parish leadership must remain vigilant to honor pledges with vigorous review and control of expenses. Long term strategies must be considered to ensure the financial well-being of the Parish and to avoid 'donor fatigue'.

Mike highlighted the monthly lunch meeting of the 'Men of Holy Faith' which focuses on fellowship and discussions of spirituality noting that the number of regular participants has increased over time.

Mike then reported that the Executive Committee, which focuses on both management and governance of the Parish, is anticipating leadership changes in 2024. Vann Bynum's Vestry term comes to an end this year. Steven Berkshire has indicated that, due to time constraints, he anticipates concluding his service as Treasurer. With that in mind, the Vestry will need to consider successors for both the Junior Warden and the Treasurer. Fr Robin is also accepting names for new Vestry members to begin terms in 2024.

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

Fr Robin began by reporting the Bishop will visit October 10<sup>th</sup> through the 12<sup>th</sup> and will meet with clergy. A confirmation service will be held October 10<sup>th</sup> followed by a reception. The Bishop will also meet with the Vestry at a later time and a tentative agenda was presented for the Vestry.

Fr. Robin reported that stewardship season is coming up with a kick-off November 5<sup>th</sup> on All Saints Day and concluding November 19<sup>th</sup>. A Parish Thanksgiving Dinner will follow that evening. Chris and Vann Bynum have offered to serve as co-chairs of the stewardship effort and the theme will be 'Christ in You: The Hope of Glory'.

The Parish survey has been released with the deadline extended an additional week to encourage responses. As of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 105 surveys have been completed.

Fr Robin noted that in an ongoing effort to address costs and to effectively manage clergy responsibilities, Taize services will be conducted with a single priest. In addition, Mtr Madeline will be included on the rota only on Sundays when Fr Robin or Mtr Lynn are away so more of her time can be devoted to Women's Spirituality.

- **Other Business**

There being no further business, Chris moved, and Steven seconded adjourning the meeting. *Carried unanimously.* The meeting concluded with prayer at 5:57 PM.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Charles Rountree*