

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
25 July 2023**

Present:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valarie Stanley – Sr. Warden | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Danisha Collins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darryl Huckaby |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bryant Grimes – Jr. Warden | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elnora Carroll | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> George DeYoung |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Everson Smith – Treasurer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eileen Esdaile | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Donna Johnson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa W. Yarbor – Parish Clerk | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jocelyn Freeman | |

Excused:

Absent:

Guests:

Meeting set up using Fr. Jackson's Zoom account so screen sharing isn't an option.

Opening Prayer and Devotional

Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m. with prayer and Dwelling in the Word with readings selected by V. Stanley.

Approval of Agenda

Accepted as amended on a motion by D. Collins, 2nd G. DeYoung

- Unfinished Business – (Valarie) add designated charities for 2nd offering and parish hall rental fees
- New Business – (Valarie) add Director of Music position
- Closing prayer – (Valarie)

Acceptance of June 27, 2023 Minutes

Accepted as with corrections on a motion by E. Carroll, 2nd G. DeYoung. Motion carried.

- Joseph Carroll was also a guest.

Treasurer's Report

- Fund Balances as of June 2023 (reconciled): General Fund-\$5,450.13, Escrow-\$24,525.13, Citizens Money Market (MM)-\$ 40,027.40
- Fund Balances as of July 24, 2023 (unreconciled): General Fund-\$6,531.61, Escrow-\$20,786.16, Citizens Money Market (MM)-\$40,027.40
- Investments: per June 2023 statement \$782,468.21
- Current bills: \$7,961.01 (includes \$3,045.62 Diocesan Common Mission Support, formerly called Diocesan Pledge, \$2,489.10 Church Insurance).
- \$765.15 credit for Church Pension Fund (CPF) represents a reduction based on former Letter of Agreement with Fr. Jackson, based on change in his age.

Warden's Report

V. Stanley reported the following activities:

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| June 28, 2023 | Met with the Picnic Committee |
| June 29, 2023 | Attended Zoom meeting with Rev. Teresa Morgan |
| July 2, 2023 | Officiated Morning Prayer |
| July 3, 2023 | Attended a phone meeting with Rev. Stephen Holton to plan Christ Church and St. Luke's collaboration for joint services. |
| July 6, 2023 | Attended Zoom Absalom Jones Center Trainers Meeting |
| July 8, 2023 | Attended Meeting of the ECCT Racial Healing, Justice, and Reconciliation Core Team at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. |
| | Attended a program at Center Church in Hartford entitled "Frederick Douglas Returns to Center Church" |

- July 16, 2023 Officiated Morning Prayer
- July 18, 2023 Attended a Meeting at St. Monica's Episcopal Church in Hartford for individuals who have gone through the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond Undoing Racism Training. Bishop Jeffrey Mello was present. I was the only lay-person there.
- July 19, 2023 Attended Episcopal Church at Yale (ECY) Governance Committee Meeting
Attended Interview with the Director of Music Committee and an Interview with a candidate for St. Luke's open position.
- July 20, 2023 Attended Absalom Jones Center Trainers Zoom Meeting
Attended Decolonizing the Body of Christ Workshop at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford. Bishop Jeffrey Mello was present.
- July 24, 2023 Attended Zoom Meeting with Picnic Committee and Representative from Grace and St. John's.

L. Yarbor ask the Sr. Warden if she can get reimbursement for mileage to ECCT events? V. Stanley will ask.

B. Grimes had nothing to report.

Unfinished Business

- Church Picnic Update:
 - Villano Park, Hamden, starting with Morning Prayer service at 10:00. Parishioners will be asked to bring their own lunch and drinks or purchase hot dogs/hamburgers from Grace & St. John's food truck, Dinner for \$1 (supplying meats and water). We will purchase paper plates and more water. Sharon Andoh will play music for the picnic and Onica Victory will play for Morning Prayer. The church has purchased a speaker with a microphone.
 - V. Stanley spoke about a couple from St. P.J's. (Catherine & Trevor) stating they will be attending the picnic. They were on our email distribution but have fallen off and would like to be added back on. Trevor plays guitar and is interested in playing at St. Luke's.
- Sr. Warden had asked for recommendations for designated charities to receive donations from our 2nd offering quarterly beginning 3Q2023. To date only 2 people have sent suggestions; V. Stanley (Love 146; Human Trafficking) and D. Collins (IRIS). G. DeYoung requested The Sickle Cell Foundation be added.
- Parish Hall Rental Fees: V. Stanley asked D. Huckaby and J. Freeman have done any investigation yet into what other places are charging? No, however D. Huckaby stated he has done a number of meetings at hotels and cost is based on occupancy. We should be able to provide both round tables and theatre seating. B. Grimes will reach out to the New Haven Fire Department regarding Parish Hall occupancy and he and D. Huckaby will do a mock theatre style set up.

New Business

- Community Day: D. Johnson reported she has no updates but thanked those who helped advertise, etc.
- Weekly Sunday Services: V. Stanley reported there is no update. We will have a Haitian priest as supply 1 Sunday in September. Rev. Theresa Morgan will be with us every Sunday up through Christmas except Thanksgiving. Bishop Jeffrey Mello will be visiting with us on 10/15.
- Director of Music Position: The Search Team held an audition/interview with Oak Martin and an offer of employment was extended.

Roundtable

- Lisa – Please pray for Valerie Jackson-Pittman.
- Elnora – When are we going to do another retreat? Possibly in the fall at Camp Washington.

- Jocelyn – Dilice hasn't been getting church emails. She should let Georgia know.
- Eileen – Pink Tea 25th Year luncheon, 10/28, 1:00-5:00 at Mohegan Sun
- Keep Beverly Huckaby in prayer.
- Jocelyn – Do we have a schedule for the ushers? Don't know how to get in touch with anyone.
- Eileen – Who maintains the Facebook page? Danisha. Eileen has blocked people for comments and spam.
- Jocelyn – Are we going to continue using the communion cups? No by direction from Bishop Mello.

Public Comments

- None

Meeting adjourned with closing prayer at 8:07 p.m. on a Motion by D. Collins, 2nd B. Grimes.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa W. Yarbor, Parish Clerk

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Opening Prayer

Teach me Thy will. Teach me to dig deep enough within me to strike the mainspring of Thy life that flows through me that I may discover Thy Will for my daily living even as for my life. I see Thy Will in order that I may be whole in my inward parts and that there may be no conflict between the good I see and the good I am... Thus no conflict between my inner and my outer. Teach me Thy Will, O God! Amen
 Howard Thurman, Meditations of the Heart, 213-214

DWELLING IN THE WORD

Mark Bozzuti-Jones' poem "The Cross and the Crown," reprinted in its entirety, with his permission:

The Cross and the Crown

They say
 And we know you can't have a child without its mother
 Do we really know what it means to be God's people?
 How can we be indifferent first to be the slaves and all the enslaved?
 We kick against the good and true acting masked in idolatrous ways
 Not all who pray to God will be saved
 We can't take sides against the children
 We want the people of God to be the people of God that is all God asks –
 God's asks are simple so put on God
 The whole mask of God

Be disruptive and cause good trouble
 Accept the decline, name it and tame it and face it
 Seek the hope and embrace the new and beloved community meant for your heart and this world that
 God calls you to love so truly

The church of this world must not rejoice solely in the demons that flee in God's name – we are called to do more than that.

Your longevity and depth of commitment to colonial and imperial power

Is just that.

Mene, mene, tekel, parsin

What does it profit if you gain the whole world and lose your soul by misleading your sisters and brothers?

Breathe the original breath and turn around and out right

The beloved community is righteous and called to sing Black Lives Matter without hesitation

Dream and be the dream and change

Speak truth to power now

Walk in justice and peace and mercy and with power and keep on rising

Let our jars be cracked open

Let our lives be poured out

Let our lives witness to those virtues, and vows, and gospel truth

Knowing that all we do and think and say and pray matter

Crack a little further

Every single day

And let the light

The right

The repentance

Join hearts in wisdom and love

And life

Prepared for cracked hearts

From all eternity.

What words or images stand out for you in this poem?

What do you hear the poet encouraging you to do?

(From the Augustinians of the Midwest,

www.midwestagustinians.org/justpaxracepray.html)

Closing Prayer

O gracious light,

pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,

O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun,

and our eyes behold the vesper light,

we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,

O Son of God, O Giver of Life,

and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Amen