

**Holy Cross Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2021**

Members Present: Adam Alphin, John Bennett, Michael Cobb, Carl Danielson, Trevor Hursthouse, Dan Morton, Lee Stroud, John Weisz,

Members Absent: Krista Anderson, Kathy Welliver

Guest: Ellen Wells, Holy Cross Financial Manager; Jerry Gallagher, Lead Supply Priest; John Sosnowski, visiting priest

The meeting was called to order by John Weisz, Jr. Warden, at 6:31.

Michael Cobb opened the meeting with a reading from the Gospel of John, followed by a time of silent reflection and ending with prayer.

Conversation with John Sosnowski: Michael Cobb facilitated a question and answer session with John Sosnowski regarding his role of acting as a coach/consultant with Holy Cross. Michael asked questions which the vestry had previously posed regarding how he would approach declining membership, the implementation of a SWOT analysis, how would he get to know the parish, and the time he expects to spend with us monthly. We discussed the importance of Confidentiality between John and Holy Cross, and not sharing findings with the Diocese. Following our discussion John was excused from the meeting.

Clerk Report: The minutes from the October meeting were sent out prior to this meeting. There being no corrections, Michael Cobb made a motion to approve the minutes with Adam Alphin seconding the motion. The September minutes were approved.

Financial Report: Trevor Hursthouse stated that our finances were running as expected. Carl Danielson made a motion to accept the financial report. John Bennett seconded the motion. With no opposition, the motion was approved.

Ellen reported we had received 44 pledge cards thus far. Two of those cards did not reflect a pledge. Last year we received 58 pledges. We are now down 20% from last year and we all need to continue working on reminding parishioners to submit their pledge cards.

2022 Budget: Trevor shared that we need to have an approved budget to present to the parish at the Annual Meeting. Vestry teams need to submit their budget requests. A date was set for the vestry to meet to finalize and approve the budget for Tuesday, December 7 at 6:30.

Ellen also shared that the Diocese is requesting 11% for our parochial pledge in 2022.

Property decisions: John Weisz shared the following:

- He has received bids for tree removal on the Holy Cross property. Michael Cobb made a motion to use Ken's Tree Service for the removal of the trees. Adam Alphin seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

- John recommended we use MAIDS of Wilmington to clean the church every two weeks. There will be an increase in cost from what we paid for cleaning services last year. John Weisz made a motion to retain the services of MAIDS of Wilmington and Carl Danielson seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Covid-19 Policy: In light of the declining positivity rate in New Hanover County, the county has lifted the mask mandate in public facilities. A motion was made to make masks optional for all activities at Holy Cross following the "All may, some should, none must" thought. John Bennett made a motion to lift the mandate and Carl Danielson seconded the motion. It was agreed that we would continue to monitor Covid-19 numbers in New Hanover County and will reinstate the mask mandate if cases begin to rise. Following the discussion, the motion to drop the mask mandate was approved.

With this motion approved, the woodwinds may resume participating with the band.

Holiday vacations for Admin position: Ethan and Kaylee have requested permission to close the office the week of Thanksgiving. The vestry granted their request. Ethan also asked about the Christmas vacation. After a brief discussion, the vestry agreed that the church office would be closed the week between Christmas and New Year's, with Admin returning to the office January 4, 2022.

Check-in calls with parishioners: Vestry members reported they are making check-in calls. We were encouraged to complete the calls as soon as possible. Michael Cobb offered to compile our notes once calls are completed.

Vestry candidates: We have 3 candidates locked at this time: Pete Lake, Becky Underwood, and Jeremy Hotalen. We still have 2 slots open. Vestry in encouraged to continue to seek out potential Vestry members.

Annual Meeting: We will meet December 7 to finalize plans for the Annual Meeting.

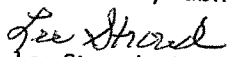
Christmas Eve Service: There will be a Christmas Eve service at 3:00 with Fr. Jerry officiating. Rene has been in contact with Jerry about involving the children by reading the Godly Play lesson in the service. There will not be a service on Christmas Day and regular services will resume on Sunday, December 26th.

Staff Requests: Jonathan asked if the mask mandate is lifted, could the youth serve a continental breakfast during at Advent at 9:00. The vestry was in agreement that the breakfast would be fine.

Youth is participating in a Thanksgiving Service with the youth of St. James at Lebanon Chapel. Vestry suggested that it would be nice if St. James was invited to Holy Cross occasionally. Also, perhaps we should reach out to St. John's.

8:26 The vestry goes into Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,


Lee Stroud, Clerk

Approved 12/08/21