

Holy Family Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2024 7:00 PM

Attending: Fr. Bruce, Jolene Johnson, Matt Okerson, Ben Paden, Bethany Paden, Emily Becraft, Ruth Everett, Chris Beldin, Kristine Canter, Kay Mulhall, Jessica Largent, Lee Cahalan, Matt Okerson (Zoom), Lorri Batesky, Scott Wilson (Clerk).

Opening Prayer: Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m., with opening prayer by Fr. Bruce.

Special Announcement - Bruce

- Announced retirement.
- Last Sunday will be Feb 2, 2025.
- Shared letters from the Wardens, and from Fr. Bruce. Will be emailed to the Vestry and the Parish email list by tomorrow, and mailed out USPS to all parishioners tomorrow.
- OK to share openly with others.

Fishers Pride Festival

- Holy Family hosted Fishers Pride September 7.
- Over 1200 people attended.
- Many enquiries about the Episcopal Church in general and Holy Family in particular.
- More positive feedback via email.
- 11 unique new visitors to Holy Family for Sunday services.
- Negative feedback from “Fishers Uncensored” Facebook page, which parishioners saw.
 - Additional activities and comments made by members of same group to Fishers City Council.
 - Significant amount of very hateful emails through the website, to Bruce, and Lorri. Negative posts on social media.

Other Updates

- Eagle Scout projects process explanation and Wesley’s Flag Box.
 - Process – Wardens and Rector meet with Troop liaison to discuss options; scout then presents options; once approved by HFEC, presented to scout council for approval; overall Vestry agreement that no more outdoor projects are approved until after the Nickel Row project is complete (to be communicated to Troop).
 - Used for deposit of US flags that need to be properly disposed of.
 - A sign will be placed on it to identify what it does and why.
 - Will stay in place until Wesley achieves Eagle status, then can make a determination where to move it.
- Nickel Plate Gardens dissolved by their board and their funds donated to HFEC
 - ~\$4000 deposited as of yesterday
 - \$1800 allocated for mulch/landscaping and new signage
 - Request from Ben that remainder money be placed in Special Projects fund;
Kristine motioned that net remaining amount be moved to Special Projects fund, with second from Gary; approved unanimously.
- What kind of follow up occurs with people no longer attending Holy Family?
 - Current process – Fr. Bruce contacts person/family to ask, “can HFEC be better?”, and “are spiritual needs being met elsewhere?”. Only about 25%

respond. Suggested to track in google doc. Important that parishioners also contact people they are missing, noting that those people are missed.

- Land Sale updates
 - Coffee and Conversation September 15. Two attended besides Fr. Bruce and Vestry, but good discussion took place.
 - Jessica provided update from meeting with Diocesan attorney and O+E regarding easement for Fishers Pointe Blvd. Diocesan attorney requested more information from the City of Fishers. Plan approval from the City of Fishers is still in process while this issue is open.
 - Once plan for land is complete, a sub-committee will be formed to identify where existing features will be moved on remaining land.
 - Scott provided an overview of the O+E Private Placement Memorandum. Noted the structure of the investment and encouraged all Vestry members to review the document and ask questions. The key document that will need to be reviewed is the Operating Agreement for the investment entity. Jessica requested this from O+E.
- Safe Church required for all of us and notices emailed by Lorri

Finance & Budget: Treasurer's Report – Ben Paden

- Current YTD deficit ~\$30K; projected gap for 2024
- Have not needed to dip into savings or reserves to meet current obligations.
- Amounts from Diocese to pay loan are delayed
- People fulfilling pledges are generally on track for 2024; approx. 60% of pledges have come in of the total pledged for 2024.
- From Bethany - In 2020, choir and HFEC were supposed to go on a trip that was cancelled due to COVID. Choir members paid amounts out of pocket. Question about reimbursing choir members or “refunding” money to parishioners. If parishioners received tax statements, no refund can be provided.

Celebrating Little Wins-what needs to be widely shared?

- Jolene - Solid numbers for first week of Sunday school.
- Fr. Bruce – Good numbers at Adult Forum

Rector's Report:

- Will be hosting “Episcopalian 101” in adult forum in the coming weeks as well as a hosted Eucharist to instruct

Compline

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Monthly Vestry Meeting Wednesday October 2 at 7:00 p.m.