

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
Greenville, North Carolina
Vestry Minutes
October 19, 2023

The Vestry of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church held a meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023, in the multi-purpose building.

Members Present: Steve Callender, Ray Franks, Ashton Johnson, Angela Mallette, Marty Michaels, Barbara Shreve, Debbie Strickland, Heather Tepper, Mary Vincent, Chip Williams, Malcolm Williams

Member(s) Absent: Sharyn Lennox

Others Present: John Porter-Acee, Tommy Tucker, Barbour Strickland

The senior warden opened the meeting at 5:30 pm. A quorum was present.

Prayer: Mr. Franks

Senior Warden Report: Mr. Franks spoke on the following:

- **Lobster Fair:** The senior warden expressed that he was glad to see so many parishioners who participated in the success of the fair this year. He said that over 97 church members were involved as evidenced by the circle of people who opened the fair with prayer.
- **Schedule for Blessing of Church Committees:** Mr. Franks said that the blessing of ministries has been very positive. Other groups will be recognized this Sunday.

Junior Warden Report: Mr. M. Williams discussed the following:

- **Handrails in Church:** The handrails should be completed and installed within the next two (2) weeks.
- **Fire/Security System:** A cellular dialer has been installed to complete the system. The cost of the repair was \$502.35.
- **Parish Hall Leak:** The leak has been repaired.
- **Buildings and Grounds:** Expenses in this line item are under good control. Some maintenance projects are underway.

Challenges:

- **Faith Fund/Endowment Plan:** The rector led discussion about the establishment of an endowment fund at St. Timothy's. A committee of Bert Powell, Ed Kirby, Karen Carr, Barbour Strickland, and the rector have been meeting to research options, regulations, and potential managers for a fund. Mr. Strickland told the vestry that the Episcopal

Church Foundation (ECF) and Oak Harbor Wealth Partners were considered. The ECF uses State Street to manage their holdings and the Diocese of East Carolina uses Oak Harbor Wealth Partners. Overall, the committee felt that ECF was a better choice for St. Timothy's. A \$10,000 minimum is needed to open an account. Oak Harbor Wealth Partners charges 0.76% of the value of the fund. A revision to the *Gift Acceptance Policy* will need to be made. After discussion, *Mr. C. Williams moved to accept the enabling, resolution, policies, and procedures for the Faith Fund of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Seconded by Mr. M. Williams, the motion passed unanimously.* The vestry expressed sincere appreciation to Mr. Strickland for his work on this project.

- **2024 Vestry Goals:** Mr. M. Williams said that a committee of Mr. Callender, Ms. Lennox, Ms. Michaels, the rector, and himself met to consider 2024 vestry goals. He presented proposed vestry goals for next year as follows:
 - Transforming Formation
 - Fiscal Responsibility
 - Building Community Involvement

The Rev. Porter-Acee added that goals for worship services and communication were important but not felt to be specifically designated as vestry goals. There was also discussion about continuation of one (1) or more of this year's goals. A decision on adopting 2024 goals will be made at a later date.

Accomplishments:

- **Committee Blessings:** The Rev. Porter-Acee talked about the importance of youth participation in the life of the church and gave an example of Silas Johnson who, among several adults, was recognized for his involvement in a particular parish ministry. Youth are vital to the strength of the church. The rector stressed the value of intergenerational activity within the congregation to enhance Christian relationships.
- **Confirmation Class:** The rector said that 11 persons have registered and nine (9) attended the second meeting last night.
- **Awards/Recognitions:** There are two (2) awards this month.
 - For personally contacting all persons with yellow name tags and providing information to the Newcomer's Committee, the *ATT Short Distance Award* was presented to Mr. Callender.
 - The *Wounded Bunny Award* was presented to Mr. M. Williams for not caring how long he had left in his term or how healthy he feels – he steps up to serve and 'just keeps on going and going'. Mr. M. Williams will be the chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee next year.

The vestry applauded the recipients of the special awards. The rector emphasized the need to celebrate the talents and gifts by St. Timothy's members.

- **Lobster Fair:** The rector expressed his feeling that this year’s fair was a real success, just as the fairs in the past, as an example of real celebration. He asked the vestry to continue to look for opportunities to lift others up for their work at the church.
- **Stewardship Campaign:** Mr. C. Williams reported that the “All In” campaign is going very well. So far, 45 pledges have been received. He is optimistic that the campaign will reach the desired goal. The campaign will end on November 5, 2023. He expressed appreciation for the speakers during the church services about stewardship.
- **2024 Vestry Nominations:** The senior warden has scheduled a meeting for the outgoing vestry members (Ms. Strickland, Ms. Tepper, Mr. Franks, Mr. M. Williams) who are asked to name a slate of nominees for the 2024 vestry. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 7:00 pm in the parish hall.
- **Pet Memorial Garden:** The rector said that there is growing support to designate a space to inter cremains of pets on the campus. A possible location is adjacent to the fire pit and butterfly garden. He added that there may be an Eagle Scout candidate who could take on the project. If approved, a policy will need to be written. The Buildings and Grounds Committee also needs to be involved. After discussion, *Mr. C. Williams moved to endorse the concept of a pet memorial garden and form a committee to write a policy for approval by Buildings and Grounds and Administrative Committees. Ms. Tepper seconded the motion that passed unanimously.*
- **“Ask Me”/Greeters:** Ms. Michaels gave an update on the progress of having greeters resume at Sunday services that was suspended during Covid. Greeters were present at the 10:15 am service last Sunday. Leigh Bell will schedule greeters for services.

Rector Report:

- **Grant Meeting:** The rector reported that St. Timothy’s has actively sought specific grant opportunities for the benefit of the church. He mentioned that Julie Crippen continues to actively work on grants. Church members, including the wardens, staff, and members who have worked on previous grants, will be invited to meet later this month, to discuss potential needs and the resulting opportunities for new grants to benefit the church in the future. It will be important to identify goals and priorities to apply for appropriate grants.
- **Clergy Conference:** The rector recently attended the conference and gave a brief report. The Bishop has come back from a sabbatical. The Bishop and clergy are excited about the health of the Diocese. There have been some new staff at the Diocesan House. Many open clergy positions have been filled.

Approval of Minutes: The September 18, 2023, vestry minutes were *approved by acclamation.*

Treasurer’s Report: Mr. C. Williams reported on the latest financial report. Cash flow is still strong with the boost from the lobster fair proceeds. Additional pre-school students have been enrolled in the pre-school. The school is close to being the black but presently does not have a music teacher and is without one (1) teaching assistant. The school does not pay rent to the church as was the case a few years ago. He expressed that the pre-school as it currently exists

may not be a sustainable model for the future without total student enrollment. After further discussion, the treasurer's report *was accepted by acclamation*. See submitted report.

Upcoming Events:

- Calendar Planning Meeting: October 22, 2023, at 11:30 am in the parish hall
- Brotherhood Social: November 16, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the parish hall

Closing prayer: Ms. Vincent

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

The next scheduled vestry meeting is Monday, November 20, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the MP building.

Respectfully submitted:

Tommy Tucker

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Clerk to the Vestry