***Christ Episcopal Church, Dearborn***

**Minutes of Vestry meeting – Sunday, July 24, 2016, 11am**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendance**: Carolyn Blackmore, Chris Burkhalter (from 11.28am), Selia Danes, Margaret Green, Dan Murray, Matt Quam, Thomas Trimble (from 11.40am), Carm Yero, Terri Pilarski

**Absent:** Daniel Pawa, Mitch Yudasz

**Recording Secretary**: Nicholas Bell

**Opening Prayer:** Terri called the meeting to order and opened with prayer at 11.06 am

**Meditation – Terri**

* Reading: ‘Failure to Launch’, an essay by Mark Yoconelli taken from “the Gift of Hard Things”
* Terri reflected on the ‘Strengths’ documented from the dialog at the June 26 Vestry meeting and would add:
	+ Creativity
	+ Persistence / tenacity – things get done. Many new things in the past five years: expanded community garden, Holiday Market, Plaza, New Sign, Pew project, Liberia School project, Friday evening open air summer concerts, organ refurbishment and many more
* We might also re-imagine things we have done for a long time, such as Christian Formation (creative re-focusing has been true across the decades in the life and work of Christ Episcopal Church)

**Consent Agenda**

* Accepted as emailed by Terri on July 17

**eMail Motion and Voting on minutes of June 26 2016 Vestry meeting**

* On June 29th Margaret moved approval of the minutes of the June 26 Vestry meeting. Carolyn seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Voting ended at Noon on Juy 1st and the motion passed with five Vestry members approving, two abstentions and two Vestry members did not respond.

**Review June meeting and establish action for moving forward**

* Vestry members reflected on the discussion at the June 26 meeting:
	+ Explore a ‘pay now’ button [for example, PayPal] on the web site
	+ Consider on-line bill pay (compared to check writing and signing this would speed and ease on time bill payment)
* Terri is convening a small ‘spirituality’ group that will dialog on spiritual growth and development at Christ Episcopal Church (participants to date: Stephanie Mulkern, Martha Amis, Michael Mroczyk, Nick Bell)
* Consider forums in the Fall on: Mission: Feeding People, Mind, Body, Spirit (September); 150th Anniversary celebration (October); Spirituality (November)
* Note 1: there is a joint meeting scheduled next Sunday July 31, at 11am between 150th Celebration committee and the Organ Project
* Note 2: there is a planned meeting of the 150th Anniversary committee on August 14th at 11am and Selia will represent Vestry at that meeting. Carolyn also plans to attend
* CEC was constituted as a church linked to the Diocese of Michigan in documents signed in 1866 on December 29th,

**Searles’ Bequest**

* At the May Vestry meeting, undesignated gift monies were disbursed to Creating Hope International and the Organ Refurbishment project. $5,000 of the undesignated portion of the bequest remain to be allocated and consideration is being given to the Mariner’s Inn and Vista Maria requests
* Selia moved that $1,000 be given to the Vista Maria Clara B Ford Academy Professional Library project. Margaret seconded the motion. Discussion:
	+ Carolyn would prefer that the donation be directly applied to the resident/student population versus staff professional development. Matt commented that we might donate without designation to a specific project. Dan asked whether $1,000 was an appropriate amount. Thomas and Chris support the motion as proposed.
	+ Carolyn proposed a friendly amendment to remove the reference to the specific project. Selia and Margaret accepted the amendment
	+ The revised motion reads: Selia moved that $1,000 be given to the Vista Maria Clara B Ford Academy
* Margaret called the question and the motion passed with all eight Vestry members present in favor
* Margaret moved that the remaining $4,000 be given to the Mariners’ Inn Strengthening Families Program (SFP). Thomas seconded. Discussion:
	+ Matt sought clarification that this was for the SFP and not the artist view project - - this was confirmed. Margaret commented that Mariner’s Inn is an established mission area for CEC. Chris supports
* Carolyn called the question and the motion passed with all eight Vestry members present in favor
* On a related topic, Terri recommended that the Church sponsor a table (for ten) at the Mariner’s Inn Gala on November 4 (to be held at Motor City Casino)

**Bylaws – Margaret**

* Following discussion and by agreement at the 149th Annual Meeting, Margaret convened a committee to further review the language of Bylaws, 2016; committee members: Kevin Green, Jeannie Martens, Martha Amis, Pete Kenney, Monica McLeod and Margaret Green
* Margaret proposed that Vestry accept the revised Bylaws as recommend by the committee. Carm seconded the motion
	+ In discussion:
		- Carolyn commented that throughout the document the word “Rector” has been changed to read “the Member of Clergy in Charge”. This is awkward and although it makes the Bylaws more accommodating, the whole document is predicated (Article I) on CEC being a “Parish”. Lay leaders of a parish are designated Wardens; the clergy in charge of a parish is designated a “Rector”
		- Carolyn recommended that Vestry review the proposed changes article by article.
		- Margaret noted the error in the wording of “Vestry Membership (OLD)” and read the corrected language. There was support for Article II, III and IV changes as drafted
		- Carolyn recommend Article V:Electronic Voting, that the reference to sending motion wording and names of proposer and second to “the Clerk” be changed to read to “the recording secretary”
		- Terri drew attention to Vestry responsibilities under “Closed Sessions” (Article V)
		- Margaret explained the rationale for the distinction between Junior and Senior wardens
		- Carolyn asked for confirmation of the “Other Officers” section in Article V and noted the need to capitalize Bylaws in that paragraph
		- Expand the acronym “CCMTs” throughout Article VI
		- Article VIII Diocesan Delegates; change “…Vestry shall select lay delegates….” to “….Vestry shall appoint lay delegates…”
		- Article X needs to include Vestry approval of changes to the Bylaws at some point in the process. It is required before the Chancellor of the Diocese will review and approve. The previous version recommended that Vestry be also held to a two third majority; if unspecified Vestry approval is a simple majority. Bylaws are approved and adopted by two third majority of the congregation at a Parish meeting.
* Following the discussion, Margaret rescinded the motion and will take these discussion points back to the Committee. She will distribute revised Bylaws for Vestry review and approval either electronically before, or at the September Vestry meeting

**New Business**

* Terri gave each Vestry member a copy of a book “The New Jim Crow” by Michelle Alexander and requested that Chapter One be read before September Vestry, for use in Meditation
* The Diocesan apportionment for 2017 will be $32,147. The 2016 amount was $33,135. Margaret moved that Vestry include the 2017 apportionment in 2017 budgets. Carolyn seconded. There was no discussion and the motion passed with eight Vestry members in favor
* The new CEC website has launched: christchurchdearborn.org. The package of changes to our web presence include new domain name management service and new emails with annual costs $400 lower than before once the transition is complete. Carolyn offered a vote of thanks to Dan Murray for his help and support in developing the new website and providing outstanding photographs and video content
* Terri reported that Creating Hope International needs additional office space and will now take two additional rooms in Stacy Hall. This will increase the rent paid to CEC for office space
* Discussion of Rector sabbatical will be tabled until 2017. In the next twelve months the Pilarski family will focus on weddings and a new grandchild

**Meeting Close**

* Terri closed the meeting with prayer at 1.00pm

*Respectfully submitted by,*

*Nicholas Bell*

**Next Vestry meeting** September 25, 2016 - - tentative gathering at 11.45am for Noon start (to be confirmed and subject to updates on Christian formation)

**Memo: eMail Motion and Voting**

* On July 30th Margaret made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 24 Vestry meeting. Thomas seconded the motion. There were some minor corrections made. Voting ended Noon on August 5th and the motion passed with eight Vestry members approving, one abstention and one Vestry member did not respond

**ATTACHMENT 1**

Agenda

Vestry Meeting

July 24, 2016

11am - 1pm

10:45 gathering time

11am Call to order, opening prayer

11:10 Meditation

11:20 Mission Field - Review June meeting and establish action for moving forward

11:45 Searles’ Bequest: Mariner’s Inn, Vista Maria

12:00 break

12:05 Bylaws

12:30 Commission Reports:

Christian Formation - Chris Burkhalter

Evangelism - Daniel, Dan Murray

Finance - Thomas

Parish Life - Selia

Property - Matt Q, Margaret

Stewardship - Carm

Worship - Terri, Carolyn

12:50 New Business - Rector Sabbatical; website and email; building use update

1:00 Adjourn

**Ongoing**
    CCMT’s Roles and Responsibilities
    LGBTQ conversation
    Racism conversation
    Capital Campaign (Fall of 2016)
    Five Point Action Plan

**Future Vestry Meeting topics**

TBD: 150th anniversary conversation

Aug 21: No meeting
Sept 25: Capital Campaign conversation
Oct 30: Budget ask (email sent to leaders)

 MMR conversation:

Worship
Staff
Parish Life
Evangelism

Dec 4: Annual Meeting reports
Jan 8: Finance / Budget meeting
Jan 21 (Saturday): approve budget

**ATTACHMENT 2**

Mission of Christ Church “Christ Episcopal Church welcomes, inspires, nurtures and replenishes through worship, fellowship and education. We seek to live a Christ-like life by embracing our broader, diverse community and serving others.”

Mission statement: Feeding people: Mind, Body, Spirit

Core Values: We at Christ Church Dearborn affirm our identity as Episcopalians, living our relationship with God in mind, body and spirit, through tradition, scripture and reason. We journey together asserting the following core values:

Acceptance Christ Episcopal Church opens its doors to all, encouraging open-mindedness, celebrating diversity, embracing reason and nourishing the spirit.

Worship CEC offers a traditional liturgy, with beautiful ritual, scripture and music, honoring each individual’s devotion to God and the experience of multiple pathways to spiritual fulfillment.

Outreach Seeking to do God’s work in our community and the world, Christ Church serves others by sharing our time, talent and treasure.

Education Seeking to do God’s work in our community and the world, Christ Church serves others by sharing our time, talent and treasure.

Social Conscience Seeking to do God’s work in our community and the world, Christ Church serves others by sharing our time, talent and treasure.

Interfaith Seeking to do God’s work in our community and the world, Christ Church serves others by sharing our time, talent and treasure.

Fellowship We gather in joyful communion, giving thanks for all that is and will be, offering and accepting hospitality, support and care which nurtures our relationship with God and one another.

Sanctuary CEC strives to be a safe, spiritual place, where diverse people feel welcome to seek God and feel comfortable to open their hearts and minds.

**FIVE POINT ACTION PLAN:**

The five point action plan to address the 2015 deficit states that Christ Episcopal Church will:

1. Remain focused to become stronger in our Mission as a Community-Centered Church
2. Invite parishioners to participate actively in more strategic and concerted activities that build relationships among ourselves and more importantly with the wider community in the Dearborn area
3. Encourage parishioners to join a group to identify and implement reasonable cost reduction ideas; particularly those that reduce our carbon footprint and make us better stewards of the environment (examples: use less paper, reduce natural gas and electricity consumption)
4. Appeal to the Parish to increase pledges by 15%, or about $510 on average per pledge
5. With advice from Treasurer and Finance Commission, borrow from a restricted fund, as and when necessary, to meet cash flow needs or to close any remaining budget gap