

**St. Timothy's Episcopal Church**  
Greenville, North Carolina  
Vestry Minutes  
September 18, 2023

The Vestry of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church held a meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023, in the multi-purpose building.

**Members Present:** Steve Callender, Ray Franks, Ashton Johnson, Sharyn Lennox, Marty Michaels, Barbara Shreve, Debbie Strickland, Heather Tepper, Mary Vincent, Malcolm Williams

**Member(s) Absent:** Angela Mallette, Chip Williams

**Others Present:** John Porter-Acee, Jonathon Sargeant, Tommy Tucker

The senior warden opened the meeting at 5:35 pm. A quorum was present.

**Prayer:** Ms. Michaels

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

- **Schedule for Blessing of Church Committees:** The vestry received a schedule to recognize the members of the many church committees and ministries for their service at St. Timothy's. Two (2) different groups each month at separate 10:15 am services will be asked to come forward for a blessing. The schedule runs from October 2023 through August 2024. The senior warden asked the vestry liaisons to take responsibility for contacting the chair(s) of each ministry, with sufficient notice, to be recognized and invite the members to attend. Mr. Franks said that the recognition will both express appreciation for the service of our parishioners and offer an opportunity for others to participate in ministries.
- **Success of Parish Day:** Over 140 people attended Parish Day including some who are not members of the church. He thanked the leaders for their work and said the event was a total group effort.
- **Lobster Fair Progress:** More than 500 lobster and lobster/shrimp meal tickets have been ordered to date with more sales expected. He thanked the chairs for their hard work.
- **Search for Insurance:** The cost of insurance coverage has increased significantly over the past two (2) years. For several months there has been an effort to explore the possibility of finding private insurance for the church with lower rates for comparable coverage. So far, no company has proposed a plan. Mr. Franks is now in further conversation with the Diocese.

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

- **Workday:** Last Saturday, the church had a workday. He said that it was very productive and significant improvements were made to the campus.

- **Handrails in Church:** Two (2) of the three (3) handrails have been fabricated and the third should be completed soon. Then, they will need to be painted. After discussion, the vestry decided to have the handrails painted brown.
- **Fire/Security System:** The church has a contract with SCI to monitor our alarm system and immediately notify the fire department when fire is detected. The annual cost is \$360. The company has updated the system after the church changed telephone providers.
- **Buildings and Grounds:** The church is under budget so far for the year.
- **Parish Hall Layout:** A chart has been placed on the refrigerator in the parish hall showing the standard layout of tables and chairs to be left after each event. The junior warden wanted the vestry to be aware of the chart and inform others who use the parish hall to comply with the set-up chart.

#### **Accomplishments:**

- **Confirmation Class:** The rector said that 12 persons have registered and eight (8) attended the first meeting last night.
- **EYC:** Sixteen youth attended the first event last week. The rector expressed appreciation for the leaders of the EYC.
- **Awards/Recognitions:** The Rev. John Porter-Acee presented the *Infectious Disease Volunteer* award to Ms. Johnson for her contributions to the church. The vestry applauded.

#### **Challenges:**

- **“Ask Me”/Greeters:** Ms. Michaels gave an update on the progress of having greeters resume at Sunday services that was suspended during Covid. The vestry felt that greeters are needed to interact with attendees, particularly new visitors, and to help the ushers who have other duties. There was discussion about the role of the “Ask Me” parishioners serving as greeters. It was stated that this group was meeting tonight. Ms. Michaels said that the Newcomers Committee plans to promote the ministry through announcements.

**Action Item:** Mr. M. Williams will meet with Leigh Bell, Mr. Callender, Susan Holmes, and report to the vestry.

- **Vestry Nominations:** Mr. Franks told the vestry that he, Ms. Strickland, Ms. Tepper, and Mr. M. Williams will leave the vestry after this year. He led a discussion about parishioners who may agree to serve beginning next year. Some names were mentioned.
- **Annual Pledge Campaign:** In the absence of Chip Williams, the rector gave an update on the stewardship campaign. Two (2) types of pledge packets are being distributed to 1) those who have previously pledged and 2) those who have not previously pledged. He distributed packets to the vestry. He also said that speakers have been recruited to talk at

Sunday services on topics including, gratitude, commitment, why we give to St. Timothy's, etc. The youth will participate in the campaign.

- **Suggestions for 2024 Vestry Goals:** Mr. Franks led a discussion on 2024 vestry goals. The following possible goals were presented:
  - Programs and activities to strengthen our faith and trust in God.
  - Build community involvement.
  - Evaluate adding services.
  - Communication improvement.
  - Programs/Services to attract new families.
  - Opportunities to increase revenue/rentals.
  - Fiscal responsibility.
  - Evaluate use of social media and how to communicate to the parish.
  - Continue to develop the vestry liaison plan.
  - Charity and Justice.
  - Increase youth visibility and participation.
  - Continue 2023 goals.

**Action Item:** A group of the rector, Mr. Callender, Ms. Lennox, Ms. Michaels, and Mr. M. Williams will meet and propose 2024 vestry goals for vestry consideration.

**Rector Report:**

- **Charity and Justice Meeting:** The rector reported on the results of a September 11, 2023, meeting with Ms. Johnson, Ms. Lennox, and Ms. Strickland. They discussed the levels of current participation in outreach activities, which includes a large percentage of parishioners. The primary outreach ministries now are the JOY Soup Kitchen, Community Crossroads, and Operation Sunshine. Outreach also contributes to other causes. They discussed increasing participation of the existing ministries to hopefully get others involved. The committee will continue to meet.

**Approval of Minutes:** The August 21, 2023, vestry minutes were *approved by acclamation*.

**Treasurer's Report:** Deferred.

Closing prayer: Ms. Michaels

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

The next scheduled vestry meeting is October 16, 2023, at 5:30 pm in the MP building.

Respectfully submitted:

*Tommy Tucker*

Tommy Tucker  
Clerk to the Vestry