

**ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
608 WEST JEFFERSON STREET
TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI 38804**

**MINUTES OF
MONDAY, MAY 17, 2021
VESTRY MEETING**

PRESENT:

The Rev. Phillip Parker	Caleb Bedillion	Mark Maharrey
Dinetia Newman, Sr. Warden	Art Chambers	
Fred Cannon, Jr. Warden	Karen Dieckmann	Kamme Riddle
Bud Nelson, Treasurer	Anna Fleming	
Tommie Moore, Clerk	Stan Furr	Donna Timmons
Michelle Hester, CtK Representative	Mickey Gray	Paul White

ABSENT: Mary Jane Meadows, Grant Smith

The Rev. Phillip Parker opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:01 p.m.

CHECK IN

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Discussion of new Hospitality chair

CONSENT AGENDA:

- April 2021 Financial reports
- April 19, 2021 Vestry minutes
- May 10, 2021 Executive Committee minutes
- Christian Growth Commission report
- Christian Service Commission report

MOTION: (Newman/Timmons)

Approve Consent Agenda as submitted.

APPROVED.

MEDIATION IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE REPORT: No report

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: No report

BUSINESS:

Treasurer's report

Bud reported that he is pleased with the revenue received in April and noted that expenses were below budget for the month.

Bud advised that he spoke with our lender at Community Bank regarding refinancing our building loan. The lender offered to reset our interest rate to 2.9% down from 3.7%, which would amount to a savings of approximately \$198 per month. There would be no fees charged and no extension of years on the loan. Bud advised that he sought advice from former treasurer, Mike Fitzpatrick and retired banker, Albert White. Both Mike and Albert advised against refinancing the loan for such a small monthly savings. Both Mike and Albert noted that Community Bank extended very favorable loan terms early in our borrowing history with them. Bud noted that if we were to refinance our loan with another banking institution, we would have to pay closing costs, fees, etc. which would absorb any savings we might gain. Bud stated that with only 5 years left on our building loan, he would not recommend refinancing the loan. A lengthy discussion followed. It was suggested that Bud contact the Community Bank lender and ask for the new interest rate proposal in writing for the Vestry to consider.

MOTION: (Cannon/Gray)

Table the agenda item regarding refinancing the building loan pending a written proposal from Community Bank confirming the new interest rate and number of months left on the loan.

APPROVED.

Bud reminded the Vestry that they need to designate the generous bequest from the Estate of Tom Evans, as Tom did not designate how the financial gift was to be used. He recommended that the gift of \$50,000 be placed in the Capital Campaign reserve fund. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: (Timmons/Cannon)

Designate the financial gift of \$50,000 from the estate of Tom Evans for the Capital Campaign reserve fund.

APPROVED.

The Vestry was advised that the Altar Guild needs to purchase a new frontal for the altar in the Nave as the current one is 25 years old and is showing significant signs of wear and tear. The cost of the frontal is \$1,831 plus shipping and handling. The Vestry agreed that the frontal should be replaced.

MOTION: (Newman/Timmons)

Approve purchase of a new frontal for the altar in the Nave at a cost of \$1,831 plus shipping and handling and authorize Treasurer, Bud Nelson to determine from where to fund the purchase.

APPROVED.

MOTION: (Riddle/Cannon)

Approve Treasurer's report as submitted and updated.

APPROVED.

Discussion of recommendations from Unit 85 Committee

On behalf of the Unit 85 Committee Tommie Moore presented recommendations from the Committee to the Vestry regarding the finances of Pack and Troop 85.

Recommendation #1

The Unit Committee recommends that Albert White be approved as the Unit Treasurer for Pack 85 & Troop 85.

MOTION: (Furr/Chambers)

Approve recommendation from Unit 85 to appoint Albert White as the Unit Treasurer of Pack 85 and Troop 85.

APPROVED.

Recommendation #2

The Unit Committee recommends an account be opened at Renasant Bank for Pack 85 with the following signers on the account: Albert White, Pack and Troop Treasurer and Michele McBride, All Saints' Bookkeeper.

MOTION: (Chambers/Furr)

Approve opening an account at Renasant Bank for Pack 85 with the following signers on the account: Albert White, Pack and Troop Treasurer and Michele McBride, All Saints' Bookkeeper.

APPROVED.

Recommendation #3

The Unit Committee recommends Fred Page be removed as a signer on Troop 85's Renasant Bank account #.....9986. In addition, the Unit Committee recommends adding Albert White, Pack and Troop Treasurer as a signer on Troop 85's checking account at Renasant Bank, account #.....9986. Michele McBride, All Saints' Bookkeeper will remain as a signer on Troop 85's checking account at Renasant Bank, account #.....9986.

MOTION: (Chambers/Furr)

Approve recommendation of Unit 85 Committee to remove Fred Page as a signer on Troop 85's Renasant Bank account9986. Approve the addition of Albert White, Pack and Troop Treasurer as a signer on Troop 85's checking account at Renasant Bank, account9986. Michele McBride, All Saints' Bookkeeper will remain as a signer on Troop 85's checking account at Renasant Bank, account9986.

APPROVED.

Discussion of ideas for reconnecting

Phillip opened the discussion by advising he is anticipating more details from Bishop Seage regarding some of the larger youth events that were put on hold due to the pandemic, as well as further instructions regarding full communion during services. He stated he is pleased with the restrictions that have been relaxed thus far and sees those steps helping to move us closer to a fuller worship experience.

Dinetia offered her appreciation to the Vestry for their work in distributing nametags on Sundays, noting that it has been well received by parishioners. She advised that she has been working on other ways to connect parishioners. One idea she is organizing is "Coffee, Snacks & Conversations" to begin on Sunday, May 30 and continuing through All Saints' Sunday, between the services. Coffee, lemonade and snacks on the Parish Hall porch will be offered. Folks can grab a beverage and a snack on their way to Sunday School or stay and visit with those they have missed seeing. She advised that she needs volunteers, from the Vestry and the parish to handle the logistics each Sunday. Dinetia distributed a sign-up sheet and asked Vestry members to pick a Sunday to handle the details.

Dinetia reported that she attended the last ECW meeting and asked for ideas from those present as to the type of programming they would be interested in attending. Several ideas were mentioned:

Instructed Eucharist

Purpose and details of ministries such as Altar Guild, etc.

"Who is mentoring you?" "Who are you mentoring?" Connecting folks in different stages of life.

Every Wednesday evening meal and programs

Lay ministry worship services with shut-ins

Youth Sunday
Resume potluck suppers

After a discussion of these and other ideas, the following motion was made:

MOTION: (Newman/Furr)

Resume monthly potluck suppers beginning Wednesday, June 23 and look for ways to incorporate other ideas offered.

APPROVED.

Vacation Bible School update and discussion of needs

Michelle Hester will be directing this year's Vacation Bible School, "Who Is My Neighbor", June 13 – 16 from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. She stated this will be an intergenerational offering. She distributed a flyer advertising VBS to all present. Michelle asked Vestry members to volunteer in areas such as meals and crafts and to please plan to attend and invite guests. She will have a sign-up sheet available in the Nave and hopes that everyone will help to promote this event.

MOTION: (Riddle/Cannon)

Approve report on Vacation Bible School as given.

APPROVED.

Discussion of Youth Director candidate

Phillip opened the discussion by advising that he has been in conversation with Emily Jackson regarding the part-time Youth Director staff position. Phillip reported that several parishioners from All Saints' recommended that he consider Emily for the position. Phillip advised that Emily has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Development with a focus on Children and Family Ministry and Master of Arts degree in Counseling from Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, North Carolina. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor with BetterHelp.

Emily has been active in ministry with Christ the King and the ELCA Synod in various capacities: secretary of CtK church council, 2 terms on the Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (SESLYO), secretary for SESLYO, CtK delegate at annual Synod Assembly, 2 terms on the Southeastern Synod Council, Southeastern Synod Discipline Committee, and on the committee for the Southeastern Synod ELCA Hunger Grants. After a brief discussion, the following motion was made:

MOTION: (Cannon/Dieckmann)

Approve the Rev. Phillip Parker's recommendation to hire Emily Jackson as the part-time Youth Director at a salary of \$10,000 yearly, effective June 1, 2021.

APPROVED.

Re-evaluate efficiency and safety of new VPOD process

Phillip reminded the Vestry that they agreed to work with the new VPOD process for one month and revisit the procedures to identify any problems. A brief discussion followed, and no problems were identified with the process. All present agreed to continue working within the new process.

Discussion of appointment of College Care Committee chair

Phillip advised that Virginia Chambers has stepped down as chair of the College Care Committee. He submitted Stacy White for consideration as the new chair of the committee.

MOTION: (Furr/Newman)

Approve Stacy White as chair of the College Care Committee.

APPROVED.

Discussion of appointment of Hospitality chair

Phillip advised that Mark Swanberg has stepped down as co-chair of the Hospitality Committee. He submitted Mike Fitzpatrick for consideration as the new chair of the Hospitality committee.

MOTION: (Furr/Dieckmann)

Approve Mike Fitzpatrick as co-chair, with Alex Watson, of the Hospitality Committee.

APPROVED.

Update on Mississippi United to End Homelessness (MUTEH)

Phillip advised that the License Agreement between All Saints' and MUTEH, Mississippi United to End Homelessness, is due to be renewed. He stated that with the changes being made in Children's formation on Sundays, we will need to reclaim the Christian Education office that MUTEH has been using for storage. He has identified several storage units, reasonably priced, that would work for their purposes. A discussion followed about decreasing MUTEH's rent as they would not be renting the additional space for storage at All Saints'.

MOTION: (Dieckmann/Furr)

Authorize Dinetia Newman, Fred Cannon and Phillip Parker to negotiate a new License Agreement with MUTEH with a rent allowance reflecting one office space instead of two.

APPROVED.

CHECK-OUT

CLOSE: With no further business, Phillip closed the Vestry meeting with a prayer at 8:05 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING:

April 2021 Financial reports

April 19, 2021 Vestry minutes

May 10, 2021 Executive Committee minutes

Christian Growth Commission report

Christian Service Commission report

Emily Jackson resume