

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

**MINUTES OF
MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021
VESTRY MEETING**

PRESENT:

The Rev. Phillip Parker		Mark Maharrey
Dinetia Newman, Sr. Warden	Art Chambers	Mary Jane Meadows
Fred Cannon, Jr. Warden	Karen Dieckmann	Kamme Riddle
Bud Nelson, Treasurer	Anna Fleming	Grant Smith
Tommie Moore, Clerk	Stan Furr	Donna Timmons
	Mickey Gray	Paul White

ABSENT: Michelle Hester, Caleb Bedillion

The Rev. Phillip Parker opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:03 p.m.

CHECK IN: Dinetia distributed written instructions for responsibilities for the Sunday Coffee Alley time.

Phillip offered thanks to Michelle Hester for her work in organizing and directing this year's very successful Vacation Bible School. He also offered thanks to the Vestry for the dinner they provided during VBS.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: None

CONSENT AGENDA:

- May 2021 Financial reports
- May 17, 2021 Vestry minutes
- Christian Growth Commission report
- Christian Service Commission report

MOTION: (Furr/Cannon)

Approve Consent Agenda as submitted.

APPROVED.

MEDIATION IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE REPORT: No report

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT: No report

BUSINESS:

Treasurer's report

Bud gave an overview of our financial status as of June 30, 2021. A copy of the financial reports is attached to these minutes. Highlights from his report include:

- The gift in the amount of \$50,000 from the estate of Tom Evans was moved to the Capital Campaign account.
- Organist, Dr. Debra Atkinson's official start date was June 1, 2021. She was paid as a supply organist up until that time.
- Grant money that was received from the Create Foundation was put into "Computer Expenses" which paid for the upgrades to our Wi-Fi system and recording equipment during the Pandemic.

MOTION: (Gray/Furr)

Approve Treasurer's report as submitted and reviewed.

APPROVED.

Discussion of written proposal from Community Bank

Treasurer, Bud Nelson presented the written proposal from Community Bank regarding refinancing our building loan. The letter from Community Bank states that at no cost to the church, they are willing to reduce the rate of interest from the current 3.713% to 2.970%, fixed for the remaining term of approximately 66 months. The new payments will be approximately \$16,900 compared to the current payment of \$17,158.

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 stated that with only 5 years left on our building loan, he would not recommend refinancing the loan. A lengthy discussion followed, after which the following motion was made:

MOTION: (Chambers/Cannon)

Approve refinancing our building loan with Community Bank as outlined in their May 21, 2021 letter to us, which reads in part: *"At no cost to the church, reduce the rate of interest from the current 3.713% to 2.970%, fixed for the remaining term of approximately 66 months. The new payments will be approximately \$16,900 compared to the current payment of \$17,158"*.

APPROVED.

Discussion of Endowment Trustees grant proposals

Tommie Moore advised that the Endowment Trustees determined that the Endowment Fund had \$825 in grant money to award. Committee chairs were notified of the availability of grant money and notices were published in the weekly Saints' news email. Two grant proposals were received. The Flower Guild submitted a proposal to receive grant money to put toward the purchase of a new, larger flower refrigerator. The Trustees recommended awarding \$500 toward the purchase of a new, larger flower refrigerator. The College Care Committee requested money to be used for supplies for the care boxes to be sent to our college students around exam time, noting they do not have a line item in the budget. They do intend to submit an operating budget proposal for 2022 in Fall 2021. The Endowment Trustees recommended awarding \$325 to the College Care committee for the supplies for the boxes for the fall semester.

MOTION: (Furr/Riddle)

Accept the following recommendations from the Endowment Trustees:

Award \$500 to the Flower Guild to be used toward the purchase of a new, larger flower refrigerator.
Award \$325 to the College Care committee for the student boxes supplies for the Fall 2021 semester.
APPROVED.

Discussion of request from Troop 95

Tommie advised that Scoutmaster, Vance Perkins has asked the Vestry to consider funding the purchase of new tents for Troop 85. Vance noted in his request that the Troop goes on campouts once a month, year-round and the tents they currently use are old and in disrepair. After researching options for tents and speaking with other scoutmasters, Vance determined that the Alp Mountaineering Taurus 5-person Outfitter tent is the best option. This tent sells to scout programs for \$299.99 per tent and Vance has determined they need 8 new tents. A discussion followed. It was the consensus of the Vestry that they want to support Troop 85 in whatever way possible. It was suggested that All Saints', Troop 85 and Pack 85 share the cost, each paying 1/3 of the total cost of the tents (total cost approximately \$2400). All Saints' would draw money (\$700) from Restricted line item 8154 and add to that amount \$100 to cover their 1/3 of the cost.

MOTION: (Cannon/Newman)

Table the request of funding the purchase of new tents for Troop 85 to determine if Troop 85 and Pack 85 can share the cost of the purchase with All Saints', each paying 1/3 (approximately \$800) of the total amount of \$2400.

APPROVED.

Discussion of Wednesday evening programming

Phillip opened the discussion by advising the Vestry that he and the staff have been working on plans for Wednesday night programming. He advised that the staff has considered meal options such as pot-lucks, having the meals catered and charging parishioners, having a volunteer cook the meal and monetary donations encouraged or having brown bag suppers where parishioners would bring their own picnic style dinner. Manpower would still be needed for set up and clean up. A discussion followed. It was determined that for the short-term plan we would have 1 potluck supper each in June, July and August. Beginning in September, we would have 2 Wednesday night gatherings with a meal each month (either the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays or the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays). Dinetia Newman offered to consult with a friend of hers that voluntarily does the cooking for another church in Tupelo to see how their Wednesday night meals are structured. She will report back to the Vestry in July.

Update on Sexton position

Phillip advised that over the course of the last few months, several parishioners have recommended that he talk with Church Redwood as a possible candidate for the vacant Sexton position. Phillip advised that he is meeting with Chuck on July 22 to explore the possibility of his employment as our Sexton. Fred Cannon advised that he has checked with an employment agency in town to explore the possibility of hiring someone for the Sexton position through them. He stated that the owner of the employment agency told him that currently the agencies in town are trying to fill full-time positions and our position at 20 hours per month would not be the type of position they would try to fill. Phillip asked the Vestry to consider the salary for the position. A brief discussion followed.

MOTION: (Gray/Newman)

Approve the total salary package of \$4,557.90 yearly for the Sexton position.

APPROVED.

CHECK-OUT

CLOSE: With no further business, Phillip closed the Vestry meeting with a prayer at 7:28 p.m.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING:

May 2021 Financial reports

May 17, 2021 Vestry minutes

Christian Growth Commission report

Christian Service Commission report

Community Bank proposal

Endowment Trustees recommendations