MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 VESTRY MEETING

APPROVED

Rev. Hollis called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Joanna Hollis, Rector; Sheila Cooper; Rector's Warden; Mark McMahon, People's Warden; Meegan Adames, Gordon Arsenoff; Wendy Benjamin; Jonathan Clark; Jim Nichols **STAFF PRESENT:** Rev. Daphne Roberts, Dcn.

DISCIPLESHIP
Opening Prayer was led by Jim Nichols
Dwelling in the Word: *Mark 8:27-38*

The Reverend Joanna Hollis appointed Mark McMahon as acting secretary for the meeting.

Garden Party Review and Reflection
Mutual invitation was used to discuss the Garden Party focusing on what we were celebrating, what needed work, how leadership was shared and what are next steps. In general the highlights were the activities, sense of community within the parish; the music and having a focal point – planting of memorial trees. The timing of the next party was discussed as well as a better communication strategy reaching out to local communities without an Episcopal Church, such as Highland Park and East Brunswick; more diversity in the food offerings. As far as leadership goes, kudos were given to Sheila Cooper for her determination in taking over and leading the project. The next party should have more participations from the various committees, not just the Vestry. For the next party it was decided to improve communication to the local communities, find another focal point and looking at the seating arrangements.

STEWARDSHIP
2025 Budget Process Overview
Meegan Adames reminded the Vestry that they and committee leads will be asked to submit budget requests soon. It was suggested, and agreed upon, to develop a form that would contain the request, what the funds would be used for and the funding for the request.

Marks of Mission
The Diocesan Marks of Mission Request in the amount of $72,741 was received on September 9th. This represents an increase in the amount of 11.5%, or $7,546 over the amount approved for 2024. The Vestry was asked to discuss the request. Sheila Cooper moved that the request be accepted, which was seconded by Gordon Arsenoff. The request was approved by a vote of 6 for, 1 against and 1 abstention. It was also recommended that a letter be sent asking for a review of the formula for calculating the request, since the parish is penalized by having to include drawdowns from the investment fund in the base of the calculation.

Stewardship Committee
Sheila Cooper presented an outline of the program and informed that Vestry of their participation in the process.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Acceptance of the August 13, 2024 meeting minutes

Wendy Benjamin moved to accept the minutes of the August 13, 2024 meeting. The motion was seconded by
Sheila Cooper. In discussion, it was mentioned that the comment in the Property Update section that stated "We now have the funds to upgrade the HandiLift. . ." be amended to "We now have ***a portion of*** the funds to upgrade the HandiLift. . ." This was carried with one abstention.

Financial Report

Meegan Adames reviewed the reports provided by Meegan Adames. The reports were reviewed and received, subject to audit.

Topics on the Minds of the Vestry

- Jonathan Clark asked about the progress being made on the work that needs to be done on 7 Paterson, to renovate it to low-income rental apartments. Jim Nichols mentioned that a longer-term property usage review was going to be undertaken. Reverend Hollis, Jim Nichols and Mark McMahon will be participating in a two-day event sponsored by Trinity Wall Street in November to get a better idea of what a long range study would involve.

Key Topics

- In a wonderful way, the message from The Dwelling in the Word read and discussed during the Vestry meeting this month kept circling back into our discussion, The passage-Mark 8:27-38-where Jesus says to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan. For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."
- Sheila Cooper led a discussion of the Stewardship Campaign which will have some familiar parts and some new ideas. Stay tuned for these events coming up in the next few weeks and culminates on Ingathering Sunday on October 27
- The Vestry reviewed the Budget process and discussed at length the Marks of Mission ask.

Compline was led by Jim Nichols.
The meeting was adjourned by Rev. Hollis at 9:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark McMahon
Recording Secretary