CHRIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 9, 2024 VESTRY MEETING

APPROVED

Sheila Cooper, Rector's Warden called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sheila Cooper; Rector's Warden; Mark McMahon, People's Warden; Meegan Adames; Gordon Arsenoff; Wendy Benjamin; Jonathan Clark; Jim Nichols

STAFF PRESENT: Rev. Jane Esmonde, Priest Intern; Rev. Daphne Roberts, Dcn.

ABSENT: Rev. Joanna Hollis

GALLERY: Bruce Anderson

DISCIPLESHIP
Opening Prayer was led by Meegan Adames.
Dwelling in the Word: *Luke 24:36b-49*

STEWARDSHIP
Mutual Ministry Review Follow-up
Sheila Cooper led the review and members commented on specific areas lending ideas and commitment to some areas.
Members noted that several items seemed redundant and suggested condensing the topics.

- **Sustainability** *(reduction in draw down)* ○ Starting the budgeting process earlier to provide time for proper discernment. Attempt to increase pledges by providing two budgets, one with proposed cuts, and one full budget.
    - In process is the work to reform 7 Paterson to low income housing to provide an income stream for the church
- **Growth Strategy** *(develop a strategy for growth)* ○ Gordon Arsenoff suggested strengthening our relationship with Rutgers through Rev. Scott Russell. What does the ECMR need from us?
    - Jim Nichols will contact Penelope Lattimer who may be able to provide contact information on the movers and shakers in New Brunswick.
    - The Wardens have begun researching grants and seeking out parishioners that may be experienced in grant writing.
- **Relationship with the Community** ○ Wendy Benjamin suggested designating specific Sundays as "Bring a Friend to Church" days.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Acceptance of the March meeting minutes

Mark McMahon moved to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Wendy Benjamin and carried unanimously.

Financial Report

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

Topics on the Minds of the Vestry

- Gordon Arsenoff inquired as to accepting donations from Wegmans.
- Mark McMahon noted that the pantry is in need of donations of diapers/wipes and feminine hygiene products.
- Mark McMahon shared that we are looking into an ECS grant to support the handilift project.

Key Topics

- The Vestry discussed the upcoming visit of Bishop French on April 28 for one service at 9:30 am. We are so excited to welcome Bishop French to Christ Church!
- In preparation for this visit, the Vestry invites all parishioners to come for a parish Clean Up Day on April 20th, beginning at 10 am. Join in for this congregational event.
- The Vestry, in preparation for their retreat on June 28-29, reviewed notes from their Mutual Ministry Review to hone in on focus areas.

Compline was led by Meegan Adames.

The meeting was adjourned by Sheila Cooper at 9:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Terry Ann Schwarz
Recording Secretary