

St. Thomas' Church
Vestry Minutes
October 15, 2019

Attending: Rev. Canon Lisa Fry, Carlos Mello – Sr. Warden, Edmund Hartt – Jr. Warden, Vestry Members: Barbara Lawrence, Haunani Wallace, Fred Bucklin, Donovan Bowley, Sarah Groman, Suzanne Scott, Elizabeth Moran, Eileen Morelli and Terry Mello - Treasurer

Absent: Shirley Fierro – Clerk of the Vestry

Lisa began the meeting with a passage from Luke 18: 1-8

Minutes – Edmund Hartt made a motion to accept the September 2019 minutes; Fred Bucklin seconded. There was no discussion. The acceptance of September's Vestry minutes was unanimously approved.

Treasurer Report –

- Our finances are looking good. Terry will continue to monitor the accounts.
- Fundraising was discussed in depth...Barbara Lawrence suggested that we form a small group to brainstorm strategies for fundraising.
- Fred Bucklin shared his concern that the Apartment rent is too low, and we should reassess the rent in the future. Discussion followed – our tenant is very good, and we have minimal expenses for the apartment.

Rector

- Discussed the Convention on October 26th. There will be a special Service to seat the Bishop. All are welcome. We will bring a banner and ask acolytes if they would like to participate in the seating of the Bishop at the Cathedral that day.
- Lisa has been given an honorific title of Canon Missioner by the Bishop. It will entail a couple of meetings and work towards the future of the mission of the Diocese.

Sr. Warden

- Report taken as read

Jr. Warden

- Had nothing new to report

Old Business:

- Tower Update –
 - Building Committee meeting Thursday to discuss BES proposals.
 - Alternatives have been given by BES – Carlos discussed the 5 different alternatives as outlined in his report.
 - Maine's Steeple Project – Donovan suggested that we look into it.
 - Rector had lunch with Bishop and discussed whether the Diocese has plans to work with the Churches regarding maintenance of buildings – if so, Carlos would be interested in being part of the Diocesan conversation. Bishop appeared to be interested.
 - The steps that will be taken regarding the Tower project are as follows:
Discussion with
 1. Building & Grounds Committee
 2. Finance and Endowment Committees
 3. Meeting with Membership
 4. Vestry

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- Lisa told us that St. Thomas' has 25 children – Thomaston, Belfast, and Rockland-have few or no children.

New Business:

- Haunani Wallace is resigning from Vestry effective the beginning of the year. She cited as reasons the responsibilities of being chair of a Rockport committee and her busy schedule. Haunani was thanked for her service.
- With Haunani's resignation, we will need to fill 4 Vestry seats – three members for a 3-year term and one member for a 2-year term.
- Read a letter by Doc Wallace followed by a discussion of how inclusive St. Thomas' is. Agreement by all that everyone should have a voice—from both sides of the aisle, regardless of whether they are conservative or liberal, rich or poor. If everyone is not welcome, we fail in our promise to “respect the dignity of every human being.” Civil Discourse is important to Diocese, and St. Thomas' is looking at ways to being workshops on civil discourse to the town by offering our facilities.
- Stewardship is beginning shortly. A successful Stewardship campaign is very important to be able to continue our worship. Terry shared her thoughts on how we can explain the day-to-day costs of running St. Thomas' so that our members understand the importance of supporting St. Thomas'. The Rector asked for people to be on the Stewardship Committee.
- Thanksgiving. – The Lyles and Mellos will be hosting Thanksgiving this year. An article will be in the October 27th Tidings. The buffet meal will begin at 2pm.

Donovan moved the meeting to be adjourned; Fred seconded. All approved. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Mello
Treasurer

Upcoming dates:

Oct 26	All day	Convention
Oct 27	Guest preacher/speaker	Wayfinders
Nov 3	All Saints	
Nov 11	Veteran's Day	Office Closed
Nov 13	COM	Rector in Waterville
Nov 16	200 th Anniv. Dio. Celebration	Historic worship service/ Christ Church, Gardiner
Nov 17	1:30 p.m.	Quarry Hill
Nov 19	5 p.m.	Vestry
Nov 28	2 p.m.	Thanksgiving
December 6	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Christmas Fair

Next Vestry Meeting: November 19th