

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting, March 9, 2023

Opening: The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with a prayer.

Clergy Report:

The "Children of all Ages" service was attended by 34 people
"Beng With" is going well.

Warden's Report:

Everyone was pleased with the Annual Parish meeting.
Quarterly Town Hall topics are being discussed. The next Town Hall meeting is will be during the second quarter of the year. Topics under consideration are church finances and Outreach. Terms for two delegates to the Fairfax Region have ended and there is a need for two more delegates. The term is three years.

Capital Campaign:

The campaign reached 98.8% of its goal. Crosses made from pews that were in the original church have been made and will be given to those families who pledged and donated to the Capital Campaign. The loan has been reduced. The solarization project is still waiting on IRS guidance for Federal funding. The plan is to use the current air handling system with modifications for the music room.

Treasurer's Report:

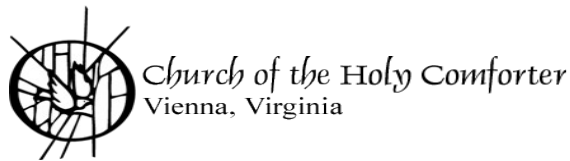
Cash on hand is good. Pledge receipts for the month of February were under budget and loose checks were over budget. Cash receipts were over budget. Expenses were under budget. Net income for the month was a negative. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report for the month of February. It was seconded and approved.

Parochial Report – February 2023:

The Parochial Report for the month of February was passed out. On line views have decreased, but in-person attendance has increased.

Parochial Report – Diocese:

This report to the Diocese provides information concerning the overall health of the church. It provides attendance, membership, challenges, activities and financial information. The document was discussed and some recommended changes were presented and approved. A motion was made to approve the Parochial Report as changed. The motion was seconded and approved.



Endowment Fund:

The Endowment Fund Board has requested that they be allowed to send the annual Endowment letter to the congregation in May of this year. The Vestry agreed that the letter could be sent at that time.

Standing Committees and Program Updates:

Stewardship: The committee recommends changing the budget to reflect the shortfall in pledges. Current pledges are at 79.2% of the goal. There are 64 former pledgers who have not pledged as of now.

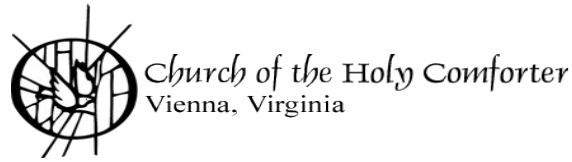
Building and Grounds: The contract to replace the air conditioning unit for the sanctuary has been signed. The posts to replace the signs in the parking lot have been received. It appears that Tom Gadell will be able to do the work himself. Richard Fitzsimmons reported that Eddy Eazcarte from the National Capital Region on Security had visited the church and made several recommendations. He will provide a full assessment with about two weeks. This assessment will enable the church to apply for federal and state grants to improve church security.

ECW/Pennywise: The ECW approved a contribution to the Capital Campaign. They will increase their pledge to the church this year. The committee is working with a forester and the Creation Care Committee to determine what can be done with the back three acres. The ECW tea is May 7 at Westwood Country Club. Pennywise income for January was 70% more than January of 2022. A nominating committee for new officers is being assembled.

Fellowship: Looking at what activities will be available for the Parish Picnic. We are also looking for volunteers to help set-up and clean up. The Parish luncheon and book club soup meal were over budget. A vegetarian option needs to be available for the soup menu in the future. The fellowship committee will cover the cost of the food provided after the Children of all Ages service.

Adult Faith Formation: The Lenten book study of *Demon Copperhead* is offered in person and by ZOOM. Twelve people have been attending the book study. The Creation Care Committee will have an exhibit in the Ministry Center April 22 in celebration of Earth Day. The 'Being With' program continues on through May and has 24 participants. The weekly Bible study continues. Registration for EFM academic year 2023-2024 will be this summer.

Newcomers Committee: There has been more information gathered recently about newcomers. There have been fourteen invitations to the next Newcomers brunch being held March 26 after the 9:30 service. A Welcome bag from another church has been received and the committee will decide if the Holy Comforter Welcome bag needs new items. Signage on the outer doors is being revised. REALM is being updated and the privacy settings have been changed to enable better use of REALM.



HCEP/Youth Ministries/IONA Fund: The Vestry representative plans to attend Sunday School classes. New HCEP board members are Lyndsey Walsh, Michael Sieviking and Zara Harris. April 23 is youth movie night and May 20 is youth Adventure Park. Confirmation has eleven students and has completed eight classes and three field trips. High and middle Sunday school classes have fair attendance. There is a need for two teachers. The youth group continues to work with FACETS. There is a need for chaperons. Pre-school registration is down.

Endowment Fund: The Operating Committee will recommend that the Board make money available to help replace the sanctuary air conditioning unit. They also agreed to recommend that the Board make money available from the Carol Stock Book fund to distribute to each senior who makes a request. There was discussion about hosting coffee hour and having an estate planning seminar for the congregation.

Communications Committee: Holy Comforter will not participate in Viva Vienna this year. The committee is going to focus on external and internal communication. The next Vestry Corner will address offerings for children at Holy Comforter. The committee wants to:

- a. Improve external communication to increase visibility of the church throughout the Vienna/Fairfax County area.
- b. Develop a social media strategy.
- c. Develop a brochure about Holy Comforter for distribution.
- d. Develop a photography ministry.
- e. Develop images, colors, and tag lines that could be used across communication mediums to ensure a consistent tie-in to Holy Comforter.
- f. Improve internal communications between staff, Vestry and ministry leaders.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the February meeting. It was seconded and approved.

The meeting ended at 9:05 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Fitzsimmons
Register