

1 *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church*
2 *Vestry Meeting*
3 *2024 - monthly meeting # 8*
4 *Date: September 24, 2024*
5 Draft: to be reviewed October 22, 2024

6 Present (virtually by Zoom):

7 Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley, Rector
8 Josephine Ellis, (Senior) Co-Warden
9 John Garinther, (Junior) Co-Warden
10 Suzanne White, Treasurer
11 William O'Neill, Assistant Treasurer
12 Dr. J. Christopher Perry, Clerk
13 James Alden (by zoom)
14 Caleb Harmon
15 David Nevin
16 Christopher Plankey
17 Wendy Webster Coakley

18 Regrets:

19 7:00 to 7:10 P.M. was spent rectifying the zoom program
20 Meeting began at 7:10 P.M. in person (and by Zoom)

21 **I. Opening scripture and Prayer offered by Rev. Pooley**

22 Collect for Alexander Crummel, feast date Sept. 10 (Nina's ordination anniversary).

23 Almighty and everlasting God, we thank you for your servant Alexander
24 Crummell, whom you called to preach the Gospel to those who were far off and
25 to those who were near. Raise up in this and every land evangelists and heralds
26 of your kingdom, that your Church may proclaim the unsearchable riches of our
27 Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
28 now and forever. Amen.

29
30 Opening Prayer, from the Church of the Province of the West Indies

31 Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
32 the privilege is ours to share in
33 the loving, healing, reconciling mission of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord,
34 in this age and wherever we are.
35 Since without you we can do no good thing.

36 May your Spirit make us wise;
37 May your Spirit guide us;
38 May your Spirit renew us;
39 May your Spirit strengthen us;
40 So that we will be:
41 Strong in faith,
42 Discerning in proclamation,
43 Courageous in witness,
44 Persistent in good deeds.
45 This we ask through the name of the Father. Amen.

46 **II. Josie Ellis, John Garinther: Open Discussion**

47 1. Stewardship will be ongoing as an initial discussion item
48 Kickoff of *Walk in Love* will be Oct. 27
49 We will then have 4 parishioners share their thoughts after service each week.
50 Action: Wendy will orchestrate asking individuals with help from Josie, and Caleb, and
51 David.
52 Ingathering will be Nov. 24

53 In addition, starting with this week's e-blast, we'll be running a series of Walk in Love
54 weekly reflections (articles):

55 Sept. 25 - Crossing Boundaries
56 Oct. 2 - Paradox
57 Oct. 9 - God Walks With Us
58 Oct.16 - Accompaniment
59 Oct. 23 - Village
60 Oct. 30 - Perseverance
61 Nov. 6 - Receiving Love
62 Nov, 13 - The Offertory
63 Nov. 20 - Authenticity

64 Instead of a labor-intensive and costly Launch & Lunch, we will simplify this year's
65 Pledge Card distribution - e.g., Cookies & Cards. Would someone from Sunday-Funday
66 say what they like about Sunday School?

67 Action: Wendy will orchestrate asking individuals with help from Josie, and
68 Caleb, David.

69 2. Rev. Nina Pooley suggested a session of "Straight talk" about finances and
70 expenditures with the parish. What is pledging? Where does money come from (e.g.
71 endowment). How do we make decisions about the budget. Put in the VPOD schedule
72 and craft an answer.

73 Action: Wendy will start a Google doc of questions.

74 2. Pop-up Potluck support 9/27. 6 P.M., set-up at 5:30. Hopefully to build a no-agenda
75 experience to create more community. Possibly this could be repeated monthly, if it
76 gains traction.

77 3. Initiative to create a 501(c)3 fund to materially support St. Stephen's table
78 Bill O'Neill and Chris Perry met and prepared a draft incorporation document
79 with questions to consider. See document draft.

80 Rector should be the President of the Fund, or the Rector's designee

81 Issues begun, with further discussion needed, included:

82 1) identifying and talking with potential fund-raisers

83 2) find out details about applying for 501c3 status with IRS.

84 3) putting together a board.

85 4) put together some bylaws for how the Vestry will operate to get the Fund
86 going and how the Fund will be self-perpetuating.

87 5) think about names

88 4. Vestry nominations. We have a good list currently, so Nina and the wardens will
89 review it.

90 **II. Clerk Report: Minutes from previous meeting**

91 August 24, 2024

92 a. corrections

93 1. Usual number of typos identified and corrected.

94 b. Minutes approved (as corrected).

95 Motion by: Josie Ellis

96 Seconded by: David Nevin and Caleb Harmon

97 Approval: unanimous

98 **III. Old Business**

99 Action Items from Previous Meeting

100 * 1. Wendy will start a Google Doc for consideration of new Vestry, to which others
101 can make suggestions and add to it. Vestry will have two 3-year terms, one 2-year term,
102 one Assist. Treasurer, and one Jr. Warden.

103 * 2. 501(c)3 meeting with Bill O'Neill and Chris Perry

104 3. Newsletter articles are due Oct 1. (Publishing anticipated roughly Oct 15).

105 * 4. Rev. Nina Pooley will pick a date for Simple Supper

106 * Completed

107 **IV. Committee Reports and New Business**

108 **Financial report** (Suzanne White. Bill O’Neill)

109 Chris Plankey showed a mock-up of a donor wall in the basement stairwell
110 displaying donor information

111 There was discussion of how funds with specific designations should be directed
112 to thematically related specific costs, rationalizing the donors intentions with the target.

113 On-line banking was discussed. Multiple persons can have access.

114 Leah Luczinski is still the signer on one of the credit cards. We will probably
115 close that card out and open a new one.

116 Action: Finance will have a conversation to develop recommendations.

117 **Property Committee** (John Garinther, Chris Plankey)

118 The report was very short, updating ongoing issues.

119 **Stewardship** (Wendy Webster Coakley)

120 Kickoff of Walk in Love will be Oct. 27

121 Instead of a labor-intensive and costly Launch & Lunch, we will simplify this year’s

122 Pledge Card distribution - e.g., Cookies & Cards.

123 **Wardens’ Report** (Josie Ellis, John Garinther),

124 Safe Church Training sessions have been scheduled for the fall. The Rev. Tanya Wallace,
125 our Diocesan Safe Church Officer, will be conducting this training on Zoom.

126 Review of Recent and Upcoming Events

127 Sunday Fun-day fall schedule started, Sept 22 at 9:50 AM

128 BC Arc Cleaning Crew appreciation gathering, Guild Room, Sept 25 at 11:30 AM

129 Pop-Up Potluck Dinner, Dining Room, Sept 27 at 6:00 PM

130 Ecumenical Service, The Pittsfield Commons, Sept 29 at 10:30 AM

131 The newsletter folder has only 1 article (Wendy) in it at present. Individuals should
132 write up about their committee’s achievements, e.g. Knit& Sip, Sunday Fun-day, Simple
133 super potluck, Finance report.

134 **Rectors Report** (Rev. Nina Pooley)

135 Will do *Faith and Blue* by picking a week when a police officer will come to the
136 coffee hour for a chance for everyone to interact with him/her. We have done it before.

137 **Action Items from this Meeting:**

138 1. articles for the newsletter needed.

139 2. Wendy will start a Google Doc for questions and answers re: stewardship.

140 3. Wendy will orchestrate asking individuals for stewardship presentations.

141 4. Rev. Nina Pooley and the Wardens will review potential vestry persons.

142 5. Bill O'Neill and Chris Perry: more information on creating a 501c3 to support
143 St. Stephen's Table

144 6. Finance should have a conversation to develop recommendations for relating
145 specific funds to thematically related budget items..

146 **Next Meeting scheduled:**

147 1. Vestry Meeting October 22, 2024

148 **V. Closing Prayer offered by Rev. Nina Pooley**

149 Prayer Attributed to St. Augustine of Hippo, and included in *An African Prayer Book*,
150 Desmond Tutu, editor.

151 All shall be Amen and Alleluia.

152 We shall rest and we shall see,

153 We shall see and we shall know.

154 We shall know and we shall love.

155 We shall love and we shall praise.

156 Behold our end which is no end.

157 - Amen.

158 **VI. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by unanimous consent: 8:50 P.M..