

Ascension Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2017

Present: The Rev. Todd Bryant, Doug Meyers, Tom Sutton, Lee Nirider, Alan Burton, Michelle Feagin, Margo Kaplan, Glenn Criswell, Faye Armstrong

Regrets: Clement Falayi, Liz Goodman, Cindy Breton

Visitor: Mike Black

Fr. Todd Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. He began with a short Bible study in honor of St. Mark's day, from the Gospel of Mark, verses 1-15. John the Baptist was portrayed as an icon as people from all over come to see him. Following the lesson, he asked for prayers of concerns and thanksgiving.

Tom Sutton brought up the success of the work weekend where volunteers performed cleaning and maintenance jobs around the church campus. Michelle Feagin announced the upcoming trip to the Hay Center for the Table 1 participants, and asked for prayers that it would be fruitful. Mike Black asked for prayers for the participants of the Visioning Workshop Group that will meet this coming Saturday.

Mike Black presented the vision document to the vestry. He explained how this document came out of the workshops and surveys conducted over the past few months. The purpose of this visioning document will be Ascension's guide as we move forward. This will be a living, breathing document, with guidelines of how this church works. The committee has made few revisions on core values, in that the statements of that all the core values begin with the word "We." The strategic priorities were left intact. In terms of the process, the action plan will begin on Saturday. The committee will develop a process to assign tasks in order to begin this project. He reviewed with the vestry the results of the validation survey, which showed that we are on the right track. Per Fr. Bryant, this is the leadership document for the church. Mike said that he feels it captures the spirit of the church. Margo Kaplan suggested to change the word in the document from "all" to "in."

Motion 1: Michelle Feagin moved to approve the document. The motion was seconded by Tom Sutton. The motion passed and carried.

In further discussion of this matter the suggestion was made that this document could be given to all newcomers. Fr. Bryant suggested having a Vestry liaison, not to head up the committee, but to relieve Mike of handling the entire job. He said that we need someone who can shepherd this matter through the action process. Mike said there would be an action plan and a ministry plan, based on demographics. He said that he would take the information and "massage" it with the committee on Saturday at the workshop. He also said that the committee will be identifying and bringing people into the process to assist with the implementation.

Consent agenda: One item pulled out of the Consent Agenda was of a special gift bequeathed to the church. There was no further issue with the Ascension Episcopal School By-laws to separate the school and the church for gifts. **Motion 2: Tom Sutton moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Glenn Criswell seconded the motion. The motion passed and carried.**

Old Business:

Glenn Criswell gave the treasurers report. He told the vestry of three bank accounts and discussed the check signers for the accounts, and the need for a second signer for the rector's discretionary fund. Margo Kaplan volunteered for this position.

Motion 3: Tom Sutton moved to accept Margo as the secondary signer. Glenn Criswell seconded the motion. The motion passed and carried

Concerning the Fidelity account, Glenn explained that there are funds that need to be moved around. Tom Sutton volunteered to be a signer, as his wife, Dana, had set this up this account. **Motion 4: Margo Kaplan moved to replace those former signers who are no longer on vestry with Tom and Glenn to the Fidelity account. Tom and Glenn were fine with the idea. The motion carried.**

Glenn explained that the church has a line of credit with Amegy Bank. Ascension received a gift of \$10,000 from Gail McCracken as stated in her will. **Motion 5: Alan Burton moved to take the \$10,000 gift to reduce the credit to \$15,000. Doug Meyers seconded the motion. The motion passed and carried.**

Glenn discussed that latest financial summary be published into the church bulletin once each month, and published in the quarterly Tidings. **Motion 6: Glenn Criswell moved to place the financial summary as discussed in the bulletin once per month and in the quarterly Tidings. Tom Sutton seconded. The motion passed and carried.**

Glenn discussed placing funds in the newcomer ministry. The finance committee found \$700, some from the CanCare fund which is no longer active, and some from the Rector's Open House fund.

Motion 7: Glenn Criswell moved to take the \$700 from the two accounts and move the funds to the newcomer ministry account. Alan Burton seconded. The motion pass and carried.

Glenn also discussed a procedure for authorizing any expenditure over \$1,000. The form for this requisition will be located on the Google Drive. Any request for this expenditure is to be routed to him and to Tom Sutton. Also discussed was a implementing a procedure for handling electronic signatures but no final decision was made.

Glenn Finally told the vestry that there was not a lot of financial activity during the month of March, except for the \$10,000 gift.

The last Old Business item on the agenda was the Ascension School alarm that was tripping and summoning emergency responders accidentally. Fr. Bryant and Nancy Clausey will come up with a protocol and send the procedure to the vestry for an e-vote.

There was no New Business or Other Business. Fr. Bryant reminded the vestry that Ascension Day will be observed on May 28.

Motion 8: Tom Sutton moved to adjourn the meeting. Faye Armstrong seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m. Fr. Bryant ended the meeting with a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Coppock

Secretary