

Ascension Episcopal Church

Vestry Minutes

August 15, 2017

Present: Tom Sutton, Liz Goodman, Doug Meyers, Margo Kaplan, Alan Burton, Cheryl Coppock, Glenn Criswell, Michelle Feagin, Faye Armstrong

Regrets: Lee Nirider, Clement Falayi

The meeting was called order at 7:12p.m. Liz Goodman gave the opening prayer.

Motion 1: Alan Burton moved to present the Consent Agenda for consideration. The motion was seconded by Glenn Criswell. The motion carried.

Motion 2: Michelle Feagin moved to accept the Consent Agenda and Margo Kaplan seconded. The motion carried.

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report: Glenn Criswell reported that the Finance Committee did not meet during the month. He stated that they have to prepare for the annual audit, and that Dana Sutton, accountant, requested help to prepare the audit. The group making plans for the audit will meet next week.

Also affecting the Finance Committee concerned a request by The Rev. Francine Young, who met with the vestry on August 10. She requested an analysis of the compensation package for Fr. Bryant, the amounts we will be paying Fr. Flick, supply priests, etc. for the purpose of establishing possible compensation scenarios for the new rector.

Glenn said that cash balances are improving. We still have major expenses around the campus. We need to stay on top of those expenses, and plan the handling of those expenses prior to the arrival of a new rector. A tool that can be of value is an Excel worksheet on Basecamp which will enable each person on the committee to view what every other person on the committee is doing at every step. It was explained that Basecamp is a central, common place to store worksheets.

Liz Goodman asked about the stewardship campaign this fall and asked how the goal numbers were determined. Glenn stated that the Finance Committee makes their projections and gives the numbers to the vestry. After vestry is in agreement with the plan, the Finance Committee essentially tells the congregation the direction that we want to go. By examining the expenses, we are able see what is needed for income. Liz Goodman and Alan Burton discussed showing transparency in financial matters.

Margo Kaplan asked when Fr. Bryant's compensation is or was stopped from being charged to our church. Glenn told her that Fr. Bryant is off of our books. We will have expense of a part-time rector

versus Fr. Bryant's expenses, and we will earmark the difference to for recruitment expenses. Tom Sutton added that we probably will spend more money than we will be saving, in that we are required to pay certain statutory benefits for Fr. Flick. The Finance Committee will determine the actual status of expenses and give a report to the vestry. After the Finance Committee meets in September they will have more answers.

Motion 3: Alan Burton moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Margo Kaplan seconded. The motion carried.

New Business:

Profile Committee: Tom Sutton said that we need think about appointing three or four people to the Profile Committee. He already said that Miranda Griesbaum, Newcomer Minister and Director of Religious Education (and on paid church staff) will be on the committee. Tom brought the church profile that was made prior to Fr. Bryant coming to Ascension. Tom asked us to be thinking of "volunteers." We are allowed to have up to two vestry members on the committee (we would prefer just one vestry member and allow another parishioner an opportunity to serve in this capacity). One vestry member is necessary because the information is returned to the vestry. We also need at least one person who is not on the vestry. Various names were proposed. Miranda will be valuable for her support, especially in formatting and editing of the report, as well as her knowledge of where to get the pictures for the report. The Rev. Francine Young will assist the Profile Committee. Michelle Feagin and Liz Goodman volunteered, however it was agreed by the vestry that it would be good to have at least one man on this committee.

Active Star kids: This is a group that wants to rent the parish hall. They will be teaching karate and cheerleading usually twice per week (Monday and Wednesday), until January 2018, and there will be weeks where meetings will not take place. They will pay \$100 facility rental per session. This program will allow the church to make \$6,000 over the time period. The tenant group does know that if the church needs the facility on a specific night, they (the church) will have first priority. Alan Burton reminded the vestry that the restroom would be used and asked about the kitchen, but was told that they would not need the kitchen. Cheryl Coppock asked if their use of the facility would involve the VOW, and Tom said that they should not be affected. If there is a problem, they would call Samantha King, Church Secretary, and she would call Tom Sutton. They also understand that they could be told to move to other quarters if the arrangement does not work out. However, it was pointed out in the discussion that karate-trained kids are disciplined. There will be a rental contract. **Motion 4:** Liz Goodman moved to accept the proposal. Michelle Feagin seconded. The motion carried.

Miscellaneous Discussions:

Faye Armstrong was concerned that in renting the parish hall, we are "bringing part of the world into our church." Tom Sutton said that the hall is used for weddings and funerals, which brings the world into the church. Also, the school is bringing people onto the campus, and yesterday the Newcomer Minister had a meeting with parents of students who came onto our campus.

The question was raised if Fr. Flick will participate in our vestry meetings. He is not required to do so, but Tom reported that he wants to attend our meetings. We also hope that when he begins as our Interim Rector, that parishioners will feel more settled.

The Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV) ministry needs volunteers with the disability and death of some of their members. Michelle Feagin and Margo Kaplan offered their services as LEV ministers. Michelle will contact Wendy Willeford about training for this ministry.

Liz Goodman posed a question concerning the Profile Committee in terms of selecting a chairperson. Per the book, "Rector to Rector," distributed at our meeting on August 10, the committee is not required to have a chairperson.

This coming Sunday, August 20, The Rev. Mark Brown from WHAM will be our supply priest. Glenn Criswell is a lay reader for both services and will announce to the congregation that the vestry met this week and is forming the Profile Committee.

Adjournment: Motion 5: Liz Goodman moved to adjourn. Michelle Feagin seconded. The motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:05p.m. with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Coppock

Vestry Secretary