

ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Meeting

February 16, 2016

Present: Mike Black, Cindy Breton, Cheryl Coppock, Carol Goulet, Miranda Griesbaum, Laura Konitzer, Doug Meyers, Matt Murphy (via teleconference), Lee Nirider, Dick Stabell, Tom Sutton, Rev. Todd Bryant, Jeri Platt

Absent: Clement Falayi

Opening Prayer/Call to Order: Mike Black called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Fr. Todd Bryant asked of any special requests and opened the meeting with a prayer.

Consent Agenda: **Motion #1:** Tom Sutton made a motion to accept the consent agenda, Cindy Breton seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the motion carried.

New Business:

Jr. Warden Nominations – Nominations for Jr. Warden were accepted from the floor. Dick Stabell nominated Tom Sutton for Jr. Warden, Mike Black nominated Miranda Griesbaum. Mike Black gave an explanation of duties of the Jr. Warden. Cindy Breton asked why each of the candidates were interested in becoming Jr. Warden. Tom Sutton withdrew his name from consideration. **Motion #2:** Mike Black made a motion to accept Miranda Griesbaum as Jr. Warden, Tom Sutton seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion carried.

Finance Committee:

January 2016 Financial Statement – Matt Murphy gave an explanation of the Financial Statement and Profit/Loss Statement for January 2016. He explained the Parish is not in debt and is in a good financial position. He did point out that there is currently a provision in the budget for supply clergy that will cover those needed during Fr. Todd's sabbatical. Dick Stabell and Tom Sutton gave clarity that the Spencer Fund was set up to cover maintenance and landscaping for the fish pond. **Motion #3:** Dick Stabell made a motion to accept the Financial Statement, Tom Sutton seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion carried.

Property: Mike Black reported the AES parking lot drainage problem has been investigated and found the problem was due to damage caused by PaveCon in initial repair. The drainage problem has been resolved but payment has been withheld. Negotiations are ongoing with PaveCon.

Old Business:

Sabbatical Summer 2016 – Fr. Todd reviewed his revised Sabbatical plans. Current plan is to travel across the South, visiting with clergy, seminary professors and others of the Church to discuss their vision and thoughts on the Church going forward. He plans to use this time to reflect on his vision for Ascension over the upcoming 3-4 years. He pointed out that one thing a Pastor cannot use a Sabbatical for is to shop for a new church/job. He pointed this out as he is aware the previous Rector took a 6 month Sabbatical and then retired which put the Church in a difficult position. Fr. Todd is looking forward to this time being a time for reflection and exploration. He did mention that he would not be performing any Pastoral duties for Ascension while on Sabbatical. There will be supply clergy for his time away as well as at least 3 other clergy who have agreed to be on call in the event of an emergency in his absence. The supply clergy are Rev. Will Hood (a former Navy Chaplain who served in Iraq and Afghanistan) serving May 22 – June 5, Rev. Jim Morgan (suggested by Deacon Mary) serving June 12,19,26 and July 3, and Rev. Bob Flick (main focus is outreach, and former head of Lord of the Streets) serving July 10- August 21.

Approval of Sabbatical – Motion #4: Dick Stabell made a motion to approve Fr. Todd's Sabbatical for May 15 – Aug 22, 2016. Cheryl Coppock seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion carried.

Congregational Sabbatical donations – Fr. Todd asked that a line item be approved allowing donations from the congregation for his Sabbatical. Matt Murphy explained the requirements for this to be a tax deductible contribution. **Motion #5: Tom Sutton made a motion to approve a line item be added to the budget for Congregational Sabbatical donations. Dick Stabell seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion carried.**

Allocation of Diocesan Grant – The Diocese of Texas has approved a grant of \$7500 for Fr. Todd's Sabbatical. The grant provides that 60% goes to the Pastor and 40% to the Church. Mike Black suggested that the Pastor allocation be increased due to Ascension's current financial position. **Motion #6: Cindy Breton made a motion to allocate all funds to Fr. Todd. Doug Meyers seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the motion carried.**

New Business:

Oath of Office – The new Vestry members agreed to the declaration as noted in Canon 9.1.b. in the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Committee Assignments – Motion #7: Mike Black made a motion to accept Matt Murphy as the Treasurer. Cindy Breton seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the motion carried.

Trustee Chair Assignments – Jr. Warden - Miranda Griesbaum; WHAM – Dick Stabell; Property – Doug Meyers; Finance – Dana Sutton; Stewardship – TBD; Outreach/Mission – Cindy Breton, Doug Meyers, Deacon Mary Reddick (chair); Parish Life – Carol Goulet; Christian Formation – Robi Lassiter (chair), Children – Laura Konitzer, Adult – Tom Sutton; Safe Church – Leslie Nirider; AEC Endowment Fund – Alan Burton (President), Dick Stabell; Emergency Response – Lee Nirider (chair), Cheryl Coppock (liason between community and church); IT – Miranda, Lee Nirider, John Seale; Music – no changes.

Ad Hoc Committee for By-Laws – Fr. Todd suggested that members of the congregation be brought in to assist members of the Vestry on developing By-Laws for Ascension. Cheryl Coppock shared that she is familiar with how to do this and will be glad to head this committee. Mike Black made note that provisions for eVoting need to be included.

Outreach/Mission – Cindy Breton reported that there is an Outreach event planned for April. Details will be forthcoming when they are finalized.

AES Board Meetings – the schedule for remainder of 2016 was sent around for new Vestry members to sign up.

VOW Schedule – Laura Konitzer and Dick Stabell are scheduled for this coming Sunday. Mike Black will be available at 7:15 to go over duties and information for VOW's.

Adjournment – Motion #8: Tom Sutton made a motion to adjourn at 8:51 p.m. The motion was seconded by Miranda Griesbaum, there was no discussion and the motion carried.

Closing Prayer – Fr. Todd Bryant offered a closing prayer followed by the recitation by the Vestry of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Platt
Clerk