

ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2017

Present: Alan Burton, Cheryl Coppock, Glenn Criswell, Michelle Feagin, Liz Goodman, Margo Kapan, Doug Meyers, Lee Nirider, Tom Sutton, Rev. Todd Bryant.

Absent: Clement Falayi

New Member Orientation began at 6:15. Pizza was served. The safe combination had been changed and it was given to the vestry members. Tom Sutton, Senior Warden, reviewed the guidelines and procedures for vestry members in a document referred to as "Vestry Nuts and Bolts."

Tom explained that the real action of getting things done at Ascension happens on the committee level. Vestry members are encouraged to be active and recruit other parishioners to get involved with the sub-committees. A vestry member can lead a committee or be a committee member. The committee heads report to the vestry. Each committee is to meet prior to the scheduled monthly vestry meeting. He explained how committees post their reports to the Google Drive, and vestry members should read the reports prior to the meeting. He reviewed purpose of the Consent Agenda, which allows the vestry to focus on the church's mission and not be pulled down by minutia. He described how items can be pulled out of the consent agenda for separate discussion.

Tom discussed how the vestry person on Sunday is also the vestry person for the week (VOW). Since the VOW has duty for the week they must be available to serve for special services, such as Lenten services, funerals, etc.

The vestry toured the church campus to acquaint members to the physical plant. Tom demonstrated the tasks that were the responsibility of the VOW.

Call to Order/Opening Prayer: Fr. Todd called the meeting to order at 7:10. He described this meeting as a training session. He had a Bible study from Forward Movement Day by Day based on Matthew 5:14. Discussion followed. Fr. Todd said that at each meeting there would be a Bible study, prayer or other spiritual activity.

Consent Agenda: Tom Sutton proposed a motion to pull the minutes of the January vestry meeting out of the consent agenda, noting that new members could not accept the minutes since they were not present at that meeting. In the discussion that followed it was decided that the validation survey also should be pulled out of the consent agenda. Both items were to be placed under the areas to be discussed. **Motion #1: Margo Kaplan made the motion to accept the consent agenda with the two items removed. Michelle Feagin seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion**

carried.

New Business:

The survey and validation survey: Fr. Todd discussed the results of the first survey which revealed Core Values, the Mission Statement, and an idea of the direction Ascension was headed. Fr. Todd asked for someone to move to go forward with the validation survey. **Motion #2: Liz Goodman moved to go forward with the validation survey. Tom Sutton seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion carried.**

There was discussion about the survey. Fr. Todd mentioned two actions that were immediately initiated from information that was gathered from the survey. The first action was having the children singing at the dismissal. The second was having a 10 second period of silence after the prayers.

Positions within the Vestry:

Motion #3: Tom Sutton nominated Lee Nirider for Jr. Warden. Alan Burton seconded. The motion carried.

Motion #4: Liz Goodman nominated Glenn Criswell for Treasurer. Tom Sutton seconded. The motion carried.

Motion #5: Tom Sutton nomination Cheryl Coppock for Secretary on a trial basis. Michelle Feagin seconded. The motion carried.

Committees/Sub-committees:

There was discussion of subcommittees at Ascension: Fr. Todd asked each of us to consider serving on or leading a subcommittee. The function of each of these committees was described in the discussion that followed.

Property: Oversee issues with the campus. There was discussion about the limits of the financial authority of the property committee.

Outreach and mission: This committee will be working with Deacon Mary.

Parish Life: Plans and ensures that food is available for all church functions.

Stewardship: This committee will possibly targeted as a fundraising committee as well as managing the annual Stewardship campaign.

Evangelism: Consider changing the name of this committee to Newcomer Incorporation, and increase the profile of Ascension on social media.

Christian Formation for Youth and Adults: Miranda Griesbaum is handling Sunday school for children, but technically she is in charge of Christian Formation both groups.

Worship: This committee should work with the Altar Guild to ensure that their needs are represented. The Altar Guild has five teams that prepare the church for Sunday worship as well as for special services. The Worship committee also includes other areas of worship such as the purchase of

new choir robes.

Finance: This committee is staffed by members with accounting/finance experience.

Vestry members are encouraged to participate in at least one committee. Members can express their interest in a committee by sending an email to Tom Sutton, Senior Warden.

There was no further discussion about committees.

Vestry Vacancies:

There were two resignations from the vestry: Paul Duncan and Cindy Breton. Fr. Todd asked the remaining vestry members to consider replacing these two former members. Tom Sutton suggested that Cindy be approached to stay on the vestry and give her a “pass” on attending the Tuesday night meetings. It was noted that if she consents to remain on the vestry she would have e-voting privileges. Fr. Todd gave authority to Tom Sutton to find other church members to serve the terms of these two vacancies. **Motion #7: Liz Goodman moved that we empower Tom that we try to find two new candidates for vestry. Michelle Feagin seconded. The motion carried.**

Vestry Training:

Fr. Todd stated that each vestry member, if they have not done so, should complete the course called “Safeguarding God’s People.” Members that work with youth are required to complete “Safeguarding God’s Children.” Also Fr. Todd would like to have each vestry member certified in CPR.

Adjourn: Motion #8: Liz Goodman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Margo Kaplan seconded. There was no discussion and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Closing Prayer: Fr. Todd offered a closing prayer by full Vestry recitation of The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Coppock, Secretary