

**ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Vestry Meeting Minutes**  
**January 20, 2015**

**Present:** Jim Anderson, John Edel, Michael Fox, Thom Fenner, Mike Black, Matt Murphy, John Searle, Carol Goulet, Jeri Platt, James Berrie, Fr. Todd Bryant

**Absent:** Laurie Taylor, Patrick Schwabrow

**Guest:** Dana Sutton

**Opening Prayer/Call to Order:** Fr. Todd took requests for prayers for thanksgiving, worries and loss. John Searle called the meeting to order.

**Consent Agenda: Motion #1: Michael Fox made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda, Matt Murphy seconded the motion and the motion carried.**

**Mission/Outreach:** Michael Fox reported activities are scheduled for the following dates: WHAM Workday on Feb. 28 from 9 until noon; CPR on March 7; Church Workday on March 14 with rain date of March 28; Blood Drive on April 4. We will be hosting a Super Bowl watch party on Sunday, Feb. 1.

**Adult Education:** John Searle discussed need for checking with Samantha before scheduling events/activities so as not to have conflicts with other ministries.

**Church/School:** John Searle reported AES has offered to pay for the installation of a keyless lock on one of the north Parish Life Building doors to allow access for parents in bad weather. **Motion #2: John Edel made a motion to approve the installation of a keyless lock on one of the doors on the north side of the Parish Life Building; the motion was seconded by Thom Fenner, discussion followed and the motion carried with 1 nay vote.**

**Pastoral/Worship:**

**Member Assistance Fund:** Fr. Todd Bryant reported that a donation has been made that the donor specifically wants to benefit members of Ascension. This fund would not be used for non-parishioners as there is already a fund for that purpose. The donor specifically noted that his mission is to help Ascension parishioners. Fr. Todd has asked that this fund be set up and administered by a group of three parishioners, one of which is a Vestry member. **Motion #3: Michael Fox made a motion to create a Member Assistance team consisting of three Ascension members, one of which is a Vestry member, which will have the authority to disperse up to \$200 without Vestry approval to those parishioners needing assistance as well as developing criteria for determining needs; Carol Goulet seconded the motion, discussion followed and the motion carried.** Michael Fox volunteered to be the Vestry liaison, set up the team and write the criteria. He plans to present the criteria at the February Vestry meeting.

**Worship Services:** Fr. Todd Bryant brought discussion of alternate Worship Services in addition to the regular Sunday services. An example of this would be the “sleepy Yoga” and Compline planned for Sunday evenings during Lent. **Motion #4: Mike Black made a motion to support the Rector in crafting alternative Christian worship experiences to bring glory to Jesus Christ outside the usual Sunday morning worship experience; Jim Anderson seconded the motion; discussion followed and the motion carried.**

**Old Business:** There was no Old Business.

**New Business:**

**AEC Line of Credit:** Dana Sutton reported it is time to renew our \$100,000 line of credit with Amegy Bank. **Motion #5: Matt Murphy made a motion to renew the line of credit with Amegy Bank; John Edel seconded the motion; discussion followed and the motion carried.**

**Creation of restricted fund from 2014 budget surplus:** Thom Fenner reported on the Finance Committee recommendation to set up a restricted fund with the beginning balance of \$70,000 from the \$77,000 surplus in the budget for maintenance. **Motion #6: Jim Anderson made a motion to establish a major maintenance fund for general repairs and maintenance for upkeep of the church/school facility that would be controlled by the Vestry with a beginning balance of \$70,000. Mike Black seconded the motion; discussion followed and the motion carried.**

**Motion to Adjourn: Motion #7: Mike Black made a motion to adjourn; Michael Fox seconded the motion, the motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. Todd Bryant offered a closing prayer followed by the recitation of The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Platt  
Clerk