

## Ascension Episcopal Church

### Vestry Minutes

July 18, 2017

**Present:** Tom Sutton, Lee Nirider, Alan Burton, Faye Armstrong, Liz Goodman, Margo Kaplan, Doug Meyers, Cheryl Coppock

**Regrets:** Clement Falayi, Michelle Feagin, Glenn Criswell

Tom Sutton called the meeting to order at 7:09 with a prayer.

**Motion 1:** Alan Burton moved to accept the Consent Agenda. Margo Kaplan seconded. The motion carried.

#### **Old business:**

**Motion 2:** Liz Goodman moved to accept the minutes from the June meeting. Margo Kaplan seconded. The motion carried.

The Finance Committee did not meet during the month. They posted the report, for information purposes only. Therefore, the vestry is not to vote to accept or reject the report.

#### **New business:**

##### **VOW Schedule:**

Tom Sutton said that there are issues with the VOW schedule for remainder of 2017. This coming Sunday both assigned VOWs will not be able to serve. Tom Sutton will enlist Glenn Criswell to be VOW for the week, although he has not visited with him about this, and he will be the only VOW for Sunday. A second vestry member is needed to count the money, and Lee Nirider volunteered. Tom also said that we need to let the office staff know who will be in charge on any given Sunday.

##### **Financial:**

Tom continued discussion of the financial report, and of the running of a financial deficit during the summer. He explained this deficit is normal for the time of the year because of lower church attendance. He also stated that the members of this vestry appointed in January were not involved in making the budget for 2017, so they inherited expenditures projected from the previous vestry. The budget, he explained, is something that is a projection, or what we want and expect our expenses to be for a specific period of time, and that the 2017 budget was presented in 2016 and was based on anticipated pledges. He noted that some expenses, such as insurance, are more of a timing issue as they are due once per year.

### **Interim Rector:**

Tom Sutton reported that he spoke with the diocese and that they gave him a curriculum of the Rev. Robert Flick. Fr. Flick is known by some at Ascension, as he has been a supply priest. The vestry members in attendance believed that he would make an excellent interim rector, although he would work part time. As vestry, we need to meet with him to ensure that we are comfortable with him as our interim rector. Since Fr. Flick is retired, he can work no more than 29 hours per week. We would have to establish a work schedule with him. The 29 hours will cover Sunday services, plus two other days on campus. Tom will visit with him and if he agrees, present him to vestry.

Liz Goodman believed that full-time priest would be better. The diocese was supposed to send information on one potential full-time and one potential part-time interim rector. Margo Kaplan felt we needed a full-time interim rector and felt that a full-time rector would have more vision instead of just viewing the position as a maintenance job. Tom stated that the of the interim priest is to make the path for the new rector so they do not have to "reinvent the wheel." He felt that on a day-to-day basis, pastoral care would not suffer. Discussion followed concerning full time versus part time. Tom talked to some of the church staff for their input. He also visited with the Rev. Francine Young at the diocese office about information they were going to send on a full-time interim rector, but was told that he had accepted another position. The other available full-time interim candidate is from Kansas. Approaching this candidate would have to go through Bishop Doyle, and he has been on vacation. Tom did not know if this candidate would make a temporary relocation to Houston, and if he agreed, the church would be saddled with expenses of his temporary housing.

Tom stated that he believed that if God has made Fr. Flick available to us, that it is for a reason. The Rev. Francine Young, who works with Canon of the Ordinary, will meet with us in August. Meanwhile Tom will try to contact Fr. Flick tomorrow to find out when he would be available. Fr. Flick does have a voice in his desire of whether or not to come to Ascension. As an interim rector, he has some choice in how we pave the way for the new rector. He mentioned that the vestry is going to have to take a delicate role in sharing the information with parishioners.

Tom Sutton stated that Deacon Mary Reddick will probably not return to Ascension. Also, her mission is outreach, and he said that it would be more beneficial to us to focus on what we need to do to find a new rector rather than planning to use the services of Deacon Mary.

Fr. Desmond Goonesekera will fill in for the next two weeks while Fr. Bryant is on vacation. August 6 is Fr. Bryant's last day, and in the custom of the church we will present a purse. The letter will go out to the congregation tomorrow.

**Motion 3:** Liz Goodman moved to adjourn the meeting. Faye Armstrong seconded. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Coppock

Vestry Secretary