

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
ASCENSION EPISCOPAL CHURCH

June 21, 2016

Present: Jim Anderson, Mike Black, Cindy Breton, Cheryl Coppock, Carol Goulet, Miranda Griesbaum, Matt Murphy, Lee Nirider, Tom Sutton, Jeri Platt, Clerk

Absent: Clement Falayi, Doug Meyers, Dick Stabell, Rev. Todd Bryant

Opening Prayer/Call to Order – Mike Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He offered an opening prayer.

Consent Agenda – Mike Black asked that the Deacon's Report be removed from the Consent Agenda as there is an item which needs to be addressed. **Motion #1: Cheryl Coppock made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda minus the Deacon's Report, Jim Anderson seconded the motion, there was no discussion, the motion carried.**

Finance Committee – Matt Murphy reported the Finance Committee met on Thursday, June 16 and all is going well. Matt discussed there is \$15,000 in the restricted funds and \$20,000 in the budget for the remainder of the year. He said the committee made a recommendation that any unnecessary spending be put on hold for the time being. There were no questions regarding the report. Mike Black offered that this summer a team including Mike, Clement Falayi and Matt Murphy will meet with Nancy Clausey regarding the school's allocation of expenses.

Property – Jr. Warden Report: Miranda Griesbaum reported the hot water heater in Bldg 100 of AES has been replaced. She also reported the drip pans in the Parish Life Bldg were replaced and the cost actually went down by \$600 than previously quoted. Miranda informed the Vestry the water leak between the church and school was repaired at a cost of \$2700. This was \$700 over the allotted amount to be spent without Vestry approval and an email was sent out to all Vestry to request approval of the overage with approval granted. Miranda reported there still may be another leak but it will take about two weeks to check to make sure the leak has been fixed.

Old Business – There was no Old Business

New Business –

- a. **Church Membership:** Carol Goulet remarked that one item Rev. Todd was interested in the Vestry working on this summer was how to increase Church membership. She reported there are many websites on the internet regarding this. She suggested everyone research this topic and come up with suggestions to present at the next meeting.
- b. **Welcoming Visitors:** Cheryl Coppock asked if there is a system for contacting visitors and suggested there needs to be a process so Visitors are made welcome. Currently a Visitor completes a Visitor card and is then contacted by a parishioner. Jim Anderson suggested that one of the VOW's great apparent newcomers and Tom Sutton suggested the Ushers make it known to VOW who may be new faces. Mike Black said he would follow up to see if the Greeter program is still working.
- c. **Open Table:** John Searle reported this is a project the Diocese of Texas is interested in and has asked Ascension, St. Martin's and Palmer Memorial to participate in a pilot program. The Mission of Open Table is to train congregation members to form communities – called Tables – that transform their vocational and life experiences into tools our Brothers and Sisters in poverty can use to develop and implement plans that create change. This particular program in the Houston area is focused on helping youth in the foster care system when they "age out" of foster care. This program grew out of a program called Wrap Around that involved

professionals in Social Science areas. It has evolved into a program that is carried out by volunteers who receive training and have resources available to help in making each participant successful. To become part of this program there is a time and monetary commitment required. Each "Table" requires a time commitment of one year for six people plus the youth. There is also a monetary commitment of \$650 (\$500 license fee, \$90 for candidate assessment, \$60 candidate background check fee) along with \$120 from each of the six members of the Table for a total of \$1370. John requested approval for \$1100 allocation for joining Open Table. **Motion #2: Cindy Breton made a motion to allocate \$1100 to support Open Table, discussion followed before a second and Cindy withdrew her motion in deference to further inquiry.** Tom Sutton suggested each member should review and become familiar with this organization. He will call for an eVote in two weeks on this matter to give all members time to determine if this is an organization and cause Ascension wishes to consider. The program will start in August with all three churches beginning at the same time. Mike Black suggested that after further investigation there are comments to direct them to Deacon Mary as well as John Searle.

- d. **Safeguarding God's People:** Leslie Nirider sent an email to Mike Black regarding upcoming dates for this program. All Vestry and volunteers working with parishioners are required to take this training every five years.
- e. **AES:** Mike Black reported he attended the AES Board Meeting in May and there are remodeling plans in the works that are being paid for by a generous donation. Along with remodeling plans there is discussion of placement of one or two temporary buildings on the property. Mike suggested he would like to form an Ad Hoc committee to deal with upcoming issues between AES and the Church.
- f. **Staff Appreciation:** Miranda Griesbaum suggested the Vestry should acknowledge the five Church staff members by taking them to lunch and providing a gift card/momento. The staff members to be honored are Ann Seitz, Leslie Nirider, Samanth King, Suzanne and Robi Lasiter. **Motion #3: Miranda Griesbaum made a motion to move \$400 from Temporary Staff to Staff Appreciation, Tom Sutton seconded the motion, there was no further discussion and the motion carried.**
- g. **Deacon Report:** Mike reported on the report submitted by Deacon Mary of a synopsis of her duties and activities thus far this summer.
- h. **July Meeting:** Mike Black suggested there not be a Vestry meeting in July. **Motion #4: Tom Sutton made a motion to not hold a meeting in July 2016 and if problems arise they be handled by eVote. Matt Murphy seconded the motion, there was no further discussion and the motion carried.**

Adjourn – **Motion #5: Tom Sutton made a motion to adjourn, Matt Murphy seconded the motion, there was no discussion and the motion carried.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Closing Prayer – Mike Black lead the Vestry in the recitation of The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeri Platt
Clerk