

Episcopal Church of the Ascension

Vestry Meeting Dec 17, 2023

Mission Statement

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension's mission is:
“To restore all people to unity with God and each other.”

We strive to be a radically inclusive community with diverse and vibrant worship, intentionally focused on children and youth, caring for each other, and on being the hands and feet of Christ in all that we do.

Present: Fr. Paul, Joan, Tom, Aaron, Todd, Katie, Harry, Steve, Andrew

Absent: Ashley, Marsha

Devotional: Audry Lee

Prayer Requests: Perry and Mary Ann, Shawn, Steve and Marlene, Lisa's parents, Harry, people of Ukraine, people in MidEast, Marsha and Curt and their families

Ordinary Business:

a) Approval of Vestry Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve made by Joan, second by Katie. Motion was approved.

a) Financial Reports - Covered in report out. Our electric bill is higher than expected. There has been no followup from Jonathan regarding bookkeeping changes required due to the audit. Stacey (who is on the audit committee) can fix it. Janey will get with Stacey to get the changes made. Harry made a motion to accept the report, second by Joan, motion passed.

New and continuing business:

A) ADS

1) Bank Transfer - As part of our effort to achieve accreditation, ADS needs to have their own bank account. Finance and ADS are working through how much money belongs to ADS. Fr. Paul shared a draft of the ADS accounting request. Now the church needs to review the accounting and make recommendations for compromise. The intent is to benefit both parties. As we try to decide what is fair in sharing expenses, we may need to apply the agreed contributing percentage to all camp incomes and early and late pickup (all earned revenue), not just the 9-2 tuition. Capital expenditures may or may not be shared, depending who uses the improvement.

That would be on a case by case basis. There will be a counter number/calculation as the next step. We should also review our insurance to make sure we have the correct coverage that includes the school liabilities. Motion to offer \$379,500.48 to ADS as the agreed transfer of funds made by Harry, second by Tom, motion passed unanimously.

2) New Board Members - request to approve new members Kristen Cairns, and Pete Fenner, to the ADS Board. Motion made to approve both made by Joan, second by Katie, motion passed.

3) Door Replacement - ADS received two bids to replace the main ADS door. They want to have it replaced over Christmas break. Motion to accept proposal made by Todd, second by Andrew, motion passed.

B) Draft Budget review - Vestry reviewed the draft budget, and asked questions in general about the budget. There is some follow up required for Patrick's contract and insurance policy. The draft budget is somewhat negative (more expense than income). Katie wants to look at Episcopal Foundation of Dallas to see if we are eligible for grants. Also, we should be looking to see if there's anything that can help us lower our utilities. This budget doesn't include an associate priest or 3rd service, but this is a deficit budget and can't be planned until we figure out income. Tom, Aaron and Katie volunteered to form a committee to increase income without relying on stewardship. Fr. Paul will circulate a digital copy prior to the next meeting.

C) Continuing items

1) Replacement of doors - hold until next meeting

2) HVAC Contract Review - hold until next meeting

Reports:

Junior Warden - Andrew. Waiting to hear back from Suzanne for new CRT budget amount.

Senior Warden - Harry. They have two Vestry candidates, looking for one more. He is happy to have Fr. Paul back. Harry went to his aunt's funeral in Arkansas. Make sure you turn in your pledge for next year, and the Christmas purse.

Rector - Fr. Paul. The cleaning company offered to supply our soap and towels in the bathrooms. They will install new soap and paper towel dispensers, and they will sell us the products to fill them. Fr. Paul will address who is supposed to pick up the plate after the service. Good to be back. Based on all conversations, we need to think about having a capital campaign. Sabbatical was what it needed to be. Books - "Rest". "Radical Candor". "4,000 Weeks".

Calendar of Upcoming Events

a) Dec 21 Hallucianunciation at 7:30pm

b) Dec 24 10:30am Advent Lessons and Carols; 5pm Christmas Eve Service

c) Dec 25 - Christmas Day service 10:30am

People to thank - Brian Kasper, Kathleen Rylander, Jane Taber for Sand Branch water

Next Month's Devotional - Aaron

Closing Prayer