

Minutes of the Vestry of  
Episcopal Church of the Ascension

April 30, 2023

Mission Statement: 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: Paul, Klitzke, Marsha Gadsden, Harry Breda, Andrew Bolt, Joan Romanosky, Steve Baker, Katie Dickinson, Todd Rutenbar, Aaron Husman, Ashley Rector, Tom Dwyer

Devotional - Ashley Rector

Father Paul called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and opened with a prayer.

Prayer list - Dan is doing well, Jimmy is doing well. Zack for cancer recovery, Wells has leukemia, traveling for Marsha and Curt, Lisa's parents (dad dementia and mom mental health) they have major financial issues and they are moving to Dallas, Austin, Wai Mei and Nala moving to Dallas

Ordinary Business

Approval of Vestry Meeting - Motion to approve as amended by Joan, second by Marsha, approved.

Financial Reports - nothing to add from what was covered in Report Out session. Some questions were raised. 1) Do we have a need to adjust the utility budget midterm, since we are so far off right now? should finance committee review in June/July and suggest a budget adjustment if necessary? Budgets are just a guide. It shows us where we need to investigate. 2) Are we putting our money to work, the cash in hand from people who pre-pay their pledges, and on our investment accounts? Yes, Extra cash is moved to an interest bearing account in the short term. 3) Giving is down this month? We are still ahead for YTD. Motion to approve financial reports made by Tom, second by Katie, approved.

New and Continuing Business

Classroom space/use - Church And ADS

We have a need for additional classroom space. Paul is considering dividing room 108 for 2 classrooms. Also, the Paula Tucker Chapel is one of the most underused spaces on the campus. Could it be put to better use as the Children's Chapel? There is some urgency if the school is going to divide 108 this summer then a decision needs to be made. Godly Play has to have all its physical pieces visible. We would need to add shelving to the chapel, remove adult size chairs, move the altar and place children's altar in front of it. We see 12 children for children's chapel. The current children's chapel could be used for ADS, and for church. We need to be thoughtful about how we use all the space. What will it take to make the Paula Tucker chapel more children friendly. Maybe the Vestry should make a little field trip to the spaces to see what is being proposed. Follow up with Paul and Harry if there are any more thoughts.

Sabbatical planning

Clergy get sabbatical after 7 years. Up to 3 months. Since grant funding will not be an option, Paul would like to take his sabbatical during the fall semester this year.

Preferred option is Sept/Oct/Nov so he could go to Idyllwild and spend time with family. Another option would be to split the time between semesters. When Paul is gone, we would need to have a priest fill in. One option is to have Paul's father fill in. He could team up with Ernie on other pastoral care or whatever else is necessary.

Executive session called to discuss the sabbatical, without Paul in the room. Agreed on statement of support for 3 contiguous months in the fall 2023, asking Paul's father to fill in for Paul, seek out additional guest preachers, and would like to see a plan for spiritual growth during the sabbatical.

Reaching out to members - tabled until next time

## Reports

Junior Warden - Andrew

Covered in PP&E report. We got the outside cross back up outside for Easter, due to work by Carle Howell. Question from Marsha about offering a class about mass shooting response for parishioners. May not have a good turnout for this. How can we present this and get good turnout for it? Could we pair it with a work day and/or a meal? Do the 15 minutes of instruction, walk through response, and then go do the work day tasks. Give everyone a chance to discuss it, and finish up with a BBQ or something. Broaden it to emergency. Tom volunteers to define the event, and then can ask for help to implement. Next, how do we capture online attendees, so we can invite them to come to physical church.

Senior Warden - Harry

Gearing up RH for picnic next month. More events are planned to respond to feedback from the listening sessions. Harry talked to Jane Taber about what happened to info from the consultant. Harry's goal for next week is go back through the listening sessions notes and touch base with committee leaders, and also see if and how we have followed up on things from the listening sessions.

Rector - In addition to Easter, Paul is reviewing newcomer incorporation methods and following up with newcomers to see if they want to become members. He also started membership review, but since COVID and the loss of Rita Sands the process is behind. Eva is doing a great job with children's chapel. Suzanne is following up on new members to make sure children info is also included. Question, when will we have the nursery covered? We have someone starting next Sunday. At least 2, and maybe 3 people in the nursery.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

May 18 Ascension Day Sing-a-long

May 21, Ascension Day, Church Picnic

People to Thank - Carle Howell for rebuilding the cross, Nancy Johnson for decorations for Taco Lunch

Next Months Devotional - Andrew

Follow up Items:

Closing Prayer