

**Vestry Meeting  
October 29, 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: Harry, Todd, Joan, Tom, Aaron, Andrew, Katie

Absent: Ashley, Marsha, Steve

Devotional: Katie

Prayer list: people of Israel and Gaza, Dabney, Lisa, Perry, Mike, Janet, people of Lewiston, Maine, Eva, Rita, children who have died, Marsha and Jimmy

Ordinary Business

- a) Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve made by Katie, second by Andrew, motion passed.
- b) Financial Reports - There are questions about ADS reserve vs actual church reserves. This needs to be resolved and published as soon as possible. There was a discussion about how the ADS reserves got so large. There was additional discussion about budgeting for 2024. Motion to approve reports made by Katie , second by Joan, motion passed. Need to have an agenda item next month to review whether or not changes have been made based on the audit.
- c) New and Continuing Business

- a) Budget prep for fall season - Harry will send a note to committee heads to get their proposed budgets for 2024. After they are received, we will collect pledges during the ingathering, and work to reconcile the two. Once we have the budgets, and the information about ADS reserves, we can evaluate any kind of large projects can we fund, for example a new part-time associate rector, a third service, any potential capital expenses like new locks, doors, or HVAC. We need to have committees prioritize their needs when they submit their budgets. We also had a discussion about our actual building insurance.
- b) Proposed door replacement - Brett got a bid for new doors, and John J got another bid. Aaron will get a 3rd bid. We need to try to harden 3 doors of entry to the main building, not including the kitchen entry. Perhaps we consider changing the door to upper building near the Food Pantry so you can lock it from the inside. We should have 3 bids to discuss at the next meeting, for both doors and locks.
- c) Sabbatical update - Fr. Paul will be back Dec 3.
- d) Diocesan convention - We elected three representatives during the Annual Meeting - Peggy Wise (going), Robert Orton (unable to go), Robin Stansel (unable to go). We need to have 2 more delegates to attend, and then ask if they can. Harry will ask Steve and Julie if they can attend, and if not Harry and Andrew will go.

Junior Warden report - Andrew; HVAC - We chose RPM to come look at the system. They came last week, and looked at the entire system. They said it was in pretty good condition, considering the age. They will come back next week and look at each unit more closely, and give us a bid on a maintenance contract and where they see weak spots in the system. We should have an estimate for a maintenance contract in 2 weeks. They will have technicians come a week after that to evaluate and bid on any service or upgrades they recommend. We should have both bids before we finalize the budget. As a followup on the Oncor

brown out we experienced, the total spent was \$3500, so too low to file a claim. We still have some risk with another brown out, but it is very expensive to protect against that. It's much easier or less expensive to turn off the electricity to the building when it happens. We have 4 switches we can flip off to prevent low voltage from continuing. We need to have instructions to do this for future events.

Senior Warden report - Harry; It is time to recruit new vestry members. It would be nice to get some young people. Last week, Harry and Caroline volunteered at youth group. He enjoyed the time he spent there.

People to thank - Todd for organizing work day

Calendar of upcoming events - Oct 29 Trunk or Treat; Nov 2 Taize Service; Nov 3-4 Annual Diocesan Convention; Nov 4 Lasagnas for Austin St; Nov 12 Stewardship In-Gathering

Next months devotional - Todd

Harry - closing prayer