

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY OF
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
Regular Business Meeting
September 25, 2022

Present: Julie Baker, Andrew Bolt, Harry Breda, Tom Dwyer, Marsha Gadsden, Jonathan March, Ashley Rector, Joan Romanosky, Laura Warner Gilmer, Rev. Paul Klitzke, and Katie Dickinson

Guests: Bill Dunham and Gene Putnam

Father Paul called the meeting of the Vestry to order at 1:35 p.m.

Andrew Bolt gave the devotional on Love focusing on his uncle who was in a concentration camp during the Holocaust. He quoted from Romans 12.

Prayer requests included Beverly and family and Vanessa and family.

Following Centering Time, the group read the Mission.

Father Paul suspended the normal business to go to the report from the Safety Taskforce.

Report from Safety Taskforce

Marsha Gadsden along with Taskforce members Bill Dunham and Gene Putnam shared their recommendations with the Vestry. Recommendations include checking existing lighting to eliminate dark spots on campus; install security locks on all exterior doors; check to ensure all doors are currently locking properly; trim hedges, bushes and trees to ensure no one can hide behind them; ensure all cameras are operating properly and install cameras where there currently are none; and upgrade the current security system to wireless. It was recommended these be handled by the PPE Committee working in conjunction with the staff.

Other recommendations included filing a Criminal Trespass Affidavit; having the Dallas Police Department conduct Active Shooter and Evacuation training; consider hiring an off-duty police officer at least one Sunday a month; have ushers patrol the parking lot during the 10:30 service; keep parishioners informed of progress on recommendations; and appoint a non-vestry member to monitor progress.

The Vestry still voiced concern over signing a Criminal Trespass Affidavit. It was agreed to table the Affidavit until after the security cameras are operational to see how many trespassers we have. It was decided to move forward on the trainings.

The vestry thanked Bill and Gene for their work on the Taskforce.

The Vestry then resumed normal business.

Ashley made and Joan seconded a motion to approve the August 28 minutes as written.
Motion carried.

Joan made and Marsha seconded a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Laura made and Marsha seconded a motion to appoint Jane Burrus, Scott King, and Bill Chattaway to the Investment Committee. Motion carried.

Laura made and Laura seconded a motion to approved Javen Porter and Griffin Douthitt for the ADS Board. Motion carried.

New and Continuing Business

Discussion followed on the humidity problem in the church. Suzanne Sweazy will follow-up with CRT to have them check the controls on the HVAC system. The pipes behind the organ will be capped off.

Father Paul said the Vestry may need to appoint an alternate to the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas convention as Laura Schmidt, an elected delegate, is no longer a member of the Church.

Junior Warden Report

Andrew Bolt reported that he had nothing further to discuss.

Senior Warden Report

Ashley Rector asked the Vestry to spend some time during October thinking about ways to thank everyone who does so much for the Church. Ideas will be discussed at the October meeting.

Rector's Report

Father Paul announced that he will be gone next week, but back on Sunday. October will be busy with the Blessing of the Animals, Caregiver Workshop, Dialogue Workshop, and the Social to Foster Conversation.

People to thank this month include Jeffrey and Ben Taber, Ben Cole, and Mary Lou Howell.

Father Paul led the Vestry in a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Dickinson, Clerk of the Vestry

