

MINUTES OF THE VESTRY OF
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
Annual Meeting, 2022

January 30, 2022

The Annual Meeting of Episcopal Church of the Ascension for 2022 was called to order at 9:02 am on Sunday, January 30, 2022, by Father Paul Klitzke, who chaired the meeting. This year's meeting was held in a hybrid fashion, with some parishioners joining in person in the Parish Hall, and some via Zoom conferencing with Ascension's password-protected room. About 15 screens joined via the Zoom meeting (including yours truly, the Clerk), with several more attending in person.

Members of the Vestry in attendance included Senior Warden Allen Myers, Junior Warden Andrew Marshall, Jonathan March, Andrew Bolt, Laura Warner Gilmer, Ashley Rector, and Julie Baker, along with Treasurer Jane Burruss. Joining via the Zoom conference was Vestry member Harry Breda, who continued to serve as Clerk of the Vestry.

Father Paul called the meeting to order at 9:02 am, welcoming all to the hybrid meeting, recognizing that this structure is essential to our current setting, with a sudden rise in Covid-19 infections due to the Omicron variant of the virus. He provided instructions on how to access the bulletin and the agenda through the pane on the side of the screen.

Father Paul then led the group in an opening prayer.

Introduction of Vestry

Father Paul introduced the Members of the Vestry, by year:

- 2019-2022 – Shade Badejo, Junior Warden Andrew Marshall, Senior Warden Allen Myers
- 2020-2023 – Julie Baker, Jonathan March, Laura Warner Gilmer
- 2021-2024 – Andrew Bolt, Harry Breda, Ashley Rector

Father Paul thanked the Vestry for their service, especially the outgoing members whose term is up this month: Shade Badejo, Andrew Marshall, and Allen Myers.

Candidates for Vestry and Convention Delegate

Father Paul next introduced candidates for Vestry and delegates to the Diocesan Convention. He offered a bit of insight into how the candidates were recruited and agreed to stand for election. Nominations for vestry or for convention delegate can be taken from the floor, but are generally discouraged because of the process that the Vestry goes through to surface candidates.

The parish was instructed to vote for three vestry candidates, and for two convention delegates and one alternate.

- Standing for election to Vestry:
 - o Tom Dwyer, Marsha Gadsden, and Joan Romanosky

Carle Howell moved to accept the slate of Vestry candidates by acclamation. The motion was seconded by LaBau Bryan, and was carried. The candidates for Vestry were elected by acclamation.

- Standing for election for delegates to the Diocesan Convention:
 - o Aaron Husman, Robert Orton, and Robin Stansel
 - Continuing to serve as delegates: John Dexter and Laura Schmidt

Ballots were distributed in the parish hall to those in person, while Father Paul created a poll for those attending online. While the voting was held, the program moved to the next item.

Report on 2021 Income and Expenses (Jane Burruss, Treasurer)

Jane Burruss presented a summary of our income and expenses for the calendar year 2021, a recovery year following the pandemic shutdowns of 2020. Despite being the second full year of pandemic preaching, Ascension had a very strong year, finishing ahead of projections for income, while staff held the line on expenses. Jane was grateful that the parish and staff have been good stewards of capital for many years now.

Jane's hope is that 2022 will feature a greater surprise in income, given that there is a greater likelihood of resuming normal, in-person worship in the second half of the year.

She issued thanks to the leaders of Ascension Day School, who provided increased income to the church, again in the face of uncertainty surrounding Covid-19.

The 2022 approved budget was included in the document shared with all parishioners.

Reports

Junior Warden, Andrew Marshall

Andrew offered his thanks, noting that it was an honor to serve as Junior Warden. He discussed the main role of the Junior Warden, to oversee the repair and maintenance of the physical plant – the buildings, the campus exterior, and all that that entails. He offered thanks to all who attended workdays, both large and small, and also issued thanks to Todd Rutenbar for his ongoing support.

At this moment the election returns for convention delegate were announced:

- Delegates: Robin Stansel, Aaron Husman
- Alternate: Robert Orton

Senior Warden (Allen Myers)

Allen provided his thanks to the parish for their ongoing support of the Vestry and the church, noting that it would be well nigh impossible to navigate through two years of pandemic-induced separation without the support of all of the parish. He also thanked the incoming Vestry members for answering the call to serve in support of the church.

Rector's Report

Father Paul began by urging all to read through the Annual Report that was distributed online and in the church.

While there was a little more hope in 2021, we have recognized that a return to "normal" will likely never happen, because what we think of as "normal" is no longer available. Life has been changed, and the "master volume" knob has forever been adjusted.

An example of this is today's meeting, according to Father Paul, taking place in a hybrid fashion. Gathering in person and virtually are both here to stay, and our calling is to do both as well as we can to meet, gather, and provide solace.

Father Paul briefly discussed the capital campaign and the proposal to update the tile in the Nave. We have a donation to purchase the tile, but we don't yet have the funds to install the tile. Nevertheless, we need to continue our progress to beautify and modernize the campus.

Most importantly, he was excited to shift his focus from capital to programming. To this end, the numbers attending services in person as well as online have been encouraging; if the figures are combined we are slightly ahead of where we were pre-pandemic in terms of attendance. We have also seen new families join our parish over the past couple of years, so he was grateful for that.

Last, he wanted to issue thanks to ...

- the Vestry, for their attendance, participation and thoughtfulness;
- committee and ministry leaders, for leading and imagining new ways to move their ministry forward;
- the staff, for being there, being flexible, and for their hard work; and
- parishioners, for giving, for participating, for prayer and inclusion.

Next, the Necrology report was read, with a prayer offered for those who have passed.

Following all reporting, the gathered parishioners sang the Doxology.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Breda, Clerk of the Vestry