

Minutes of the Vestry of  
Episcopal Church of the Ascension

February 26, 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, Ashley Rector, Marsha Gadsden, Tom Dwyer, Harry Breda, Andrew Bolt, Joan Romanosky, Steve Baker, Katie Dickinson, Todd Rutenbar,

Not Present: Aaron Husman

Father Paul called the meeting to order at 1:30pm and opened with gratitudes, and a prayer.

Prayer requests include: Zach. (ADS family, 2/3 through chemo), Wells (just turned 4, had leukemia), Bryan (home after pneumonia), Nancy and Lani (pneumonia), the Marmions (Bill still in hospital, had covid, moved to acute rehab center), Jimmy (sees surgeon Tuesday, then date to be established for aortic valve replacement), Sophie (in Haiti)

There was a prayer for Ukraine and Haiti

#### Ordinary Business

Approval of the vestry meeting minutes: Amended minutes approved. Motion to approve by Joan, second from Tom. So moved.

Financial reports: No questions. Marsha made a motion to approve, second from Joan. Motion passed.

#### New and continuing business:

Vestry check signers - Need at least 3 people. Ashley Rector has been doing it regularly. Katie Dickinson volunteered, Ashley will continue, Todd Rutenbar also volunteered. Andrew volunteered to be backup. Maybe consolidate to only do it once per week. Will have to followup to get the bank signing card updated.

ADS accreditation process update - ADS has been working with Southern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES). After reviewing standards, it required additional information. We are closer to asking SAES to come visit and review documents. One of the last steps assumes the school has its own bank account. What could or should that look like? ADS may have a separate account at the same bank, and same bookkeeper, and still some shared resource but their money in/out will come from their own account. Does the church ever use ADS cash on hand for our expenses? Need to find out. Do we need to contact Janie, Jonathan and Aaron to see if this is ok? Do they have recommendation? May need to have a separate set of books. How will that work with QuickBooks? Just starting the conversations about how this might be accomplished to support accreditation.

ADS is going to have a summer camp program.

Reaching out to members -this is an ongoing task. Who do we need to call or check in with? May give some thought about who might be called to serve in the church; on a committee or ministry.

#### Reports:

Jr. Warden - Andrew Bolt: Todd covered most major items. 3/25 will be a work day. Talking generally about drainage pan. Should have been spotted immediately. Anyone ever change filters in the upper building? Who manages the maintenance crew for HVAC? Maybe check during the work day. Suzanne, follow up about outdoor lighting? Paul, John and Suzanne still trying to manage all the maintenance. Parking lot lights are on the list, need to find out if we have bids on the repair. Katie - the piscina is clogged. We need hot water in the AG sacristy. Let's get a kettle. Paul will get the kettle for the piscina. AG Sacristy gets over heated. Tom - Vestry should know about our maintenance agreements, and when they expire, and if they need to be evaluated or changed. Also, not sure the irrigation problems have been addressed. How do we get a handle on that? Area around the electric sign is not being watered properly. Working on a more drought tolerant campus. Do we have a list of contracts and dates for maintenance?

Sr Warden - Harry Breda: Thanks for everyone who came to Shrove Tuesday. 80 people attended, at least. There was a discussion regarding the feedback from the two listening sessions. Five areas were chosen to focus on.

1 - more large events for the entire church - assign to Radical Hospitality. Twice quarterly events, 100 percent increase. More pot-lucks. Post service pot luck lunches.  
2 - Evangelism - staff the welcome desk, include better signage, coordinate with staff to followup with visitors. What is the process for a welcoming new person, and including them in our database? How do they get in Fellowship One? How can we update and use the data we have? Suzanne puts the information provided into F1, which might be incomplete. Do we email new people to make sure we have info about the family that attends? What about the records that are not complete? Should we have a tack force to contact everyone to make sure info is complete and accurate? Ask evangelism if they want to do this and is it what they want/need? Discussion about how we welcome visitors. Maybe rotate rotate vestry members as staffing for the welcome desk.

3 - formation committee needs new members. Maybe recruit someone with strengths in adult formation for families with kids. Make sure we are low pressure, welcoming. Cradle to grave formation and supplies, and plan. What about parents with teenagers? Can we have offerings for the two groups, parents separate from teenagers.

4 - music, with high priority to have some changes. Issues mentioned were tempo, using the green hymnal book, nominating favorite hymns in the summer, diversity of music. Assign to Paul. Send Paul some of the songs we like from the green hymnal. And the regular hymnal as well. Not all songs in either hymnal are good. And hymns are seasonal as well.

(Note: do we need all the words to the songs on the screen on YouTube?)

5 - How we report our activities, outbound things, etc. Harry will do this.

Someone wanted daytime activities at the church. Was that an older person? Who asked that question and what do they want?

Rector report - Fr. Paul Kiltzke - appreciation and welcome to new vestry members. He is going to camp Allen for vestry convention next week, Monday through Wednesday. Return Thursday evening. Mark is out of town next week, and we will have a guest organist here the week of the 5th. Then Fr. Paul is leaving 3/10 to go on pilgrimage. Noah is joining

them. Fr. Ernie will be covering worship. Return on 3/20. Sarah and Emma have spring break 3/18, and will be back in Dallas.

Calendar of upcoming events:

Wednesday Evening Lenten Series through March

People to thank: Suzan and Mary Lou for work on Shrove Tuesday. Nancy Johnson for the decoration and organizing the burning of the palms.

Next Month's devotional: Ashley

Closing Prayer