

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VESTRY OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

October 8, 2019

A meeting of the Vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Ascension of Knoxville, Tennessee, of the Protestant Episcopal Church (the "Church") was held in Room 101 of the Church, 800 S. Northshore Drive, Knoxville Tennessee, on Tuesday, October 8, 2019. Present in person were Interim Rector Rev. Pat Wingo; Senior Warden Marilyn Roddy; Junior Warden Dave Irvin, Jr.; Jim Alexander; Allie Brown; Laura Johnston; Tom Morgan; Marnie Page; Sylvia Peters; Pat Rutenberg; Bob Sowell; Brian Wanamaker; and Allan Willoughby, constituting a quorum. Absent but duly notified were Chuck Burton; Muffet Testerman-Buckner; and Amanda Rowcliffe. Present by invitation were Mark Medley, Treasurer; Amanda Busby, Chair of the Ascension Endowment Committee; Jim Hodge, member of the Building and Grounds Committee; and Adrienne Anderson, counsel for the Church. The meeting was open to all members of the Church, and two parishioners attended.

Father Pat chaired the meeting, and Brian Wanamaker served as Clerk.

Father Pat called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. He began the meeting with a Litany for Church Leadership, which he distributed at the meeting.

Thereafter, Father Pat and Marilyn Roddy discussed changes to the agenda that had been provided to the Vestry in advance of the meeting.

Then, at Father Pat's request, on motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Vestry entered into executive session. All visitors exited other than Adrienne Anderson, Amanda Busby, Mark Medley, and Father Pat, who remained at the Vestry's invitation.

Following the executive session, Adrienne Anderson exited the meeting and all others re-entered the meeting.

The Vestry considered the draft of the minutes from the September 10, 2019, meeting, which were provided to the Vestry in advance of the meeting. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the Vestry approved the minutes as submitted; provided that the Vestry determined that Resolution 2 in Exhibit H, which had been marked as confidential, should no longer be confidential.

Father Pat then began the Outreach Commission report, referring to the materials provided to the Vestry in advance of the meeting (attached hereto as Exhibit A). Among other items, Father Pat discussed the Rise Against Hunger portion of the Youth and World Mission report. He explained that fundraising from t-shirt sales collected \$3,471. The cost of the t-shirts was \$2,060. Father Pat contributed \$1,500

from the Rector's fund. The Church contributed \$1,000 from the proceeds of the Mardi Gras event. Combined, the total net funds raised for the event was \$3,911. Rise Against Hunger charged \$3,708 for the materials and support costs. Therefore, the event netted \$203 for Youth Ministries. In addition, Sylvia Peters provided an overview of the Outreach Commission report. During the Outreach Commission report, the Vestry asked questions and engaged in discussion.

Next, at Father Pat's request, Bob Sowell presented a plaque designating the "Backus Family Nursery" to the Vestry. Bob noted Muffet Testerman-Buckner's work for the plaque and explained that the Church has not yet scheduled the date for installation.

Then, at Father Pat's request, Allie Brown provided the Inreach Commission report. Allie reviewed written materials provided to the Vestry in advance of the meeting and attached hereto as Exhibit B. Among the other items, Allie updated the Vestry on developments with Adult Christian Formation. She advised that she has not received feedback requesting that the Sunday School be split into multiple classes again. She also advised that, given the combined Sunday School format, there is no need for a Sunday School committee at this time. Allie also updated the Vestry on the Vino and Verses group. She explained that the group has reformed and has been meeting on Wednesdays to do its own study. During the report, Father Pat reviewed the Church's first Celtic Service. He advised that 153 people attended and it was noted that approximately one-third were not members of Ascension. Father Pat relayed that Bishop Cole conveyed that he was very pleased with the service and reminded Father Pat that there is currently no service like it in the Knoxville area. Father Pat and Allie both advised the Vestry that the Kingdom Choir FOMA event will take place in November and that there has been a high level of interest, including from those outside the Church. Last, Allie advised the Vestry that there is discussion about restarting a coffee hour. She explained that multiple options are being considered, including a monthly coffee hour or more sporadic and strategic timing as well as various locations in the Church. She noted that those evaluating the options have emphasized the need to keep it simple.

Following Allie's presentation, Allan Willoughby advised the Vestry that the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is discussing restarting the "Driving Miss Daisy" program to help those that may need assistance driving to services. In addition, Brian Wanamaker noted that the ushers have expressed a desire to have a sitting area in the Church foyer area. That seating would provide those that have been dropped off at the door a place to wait while their companions park. Father Pat advised that he and Linda Hawley have discussed the issue and are looking for ways to accommodate the request.

Throughout the Inreach Commission report, the Vestry asked questions and engaged in discussion.

Thereafter Father Pat opened the Temporal Commission report. At his request, Amanda Busby provided a report regarding the Endowment Committee's

recommendations concerning 2019 Fall Grant proposals, referring to a report she distributed to the Vestry at the meeting and attached hereto as Exhibit C. Amanda reviewed each grant proposal and the corresponding recommendation. During the presentation, the Vestry asked questions and engaged in discussion. At the conclusion of the discussion, on the committee's motion, the Vestry unanimously approved the grant awards as recommended by the Endowment Committee.

Amanda also noted that the Endowment Committee recommends that the Vestry open a separate checking account for grant fund distribution. Mark Medley advised that separate accounts currently exist. Discussion ensued regarding the accounting. No action was taken on the committee's recommendation.

Amanda Busby then exited the meeting.

Next, Mark Medley provided the monthly financial report. Referring to materials provided to the Vestry in advance of the meeting and attached hereto as Exhibits D and E. Mark reported that the Church is approximately \$116,000 behind its budget on revenues and slightly better than budget on expenses. With respect to revenues, Mark advised that the Church's pledges are \$9,000 below budget and are therefore not the primary driver of the gap. The primary driver, he explained, is a drop in non-pledge contributions, which year-to-date were \$47,000 versus budget of \$75,000. Mark also noted that the budgeting process erroneously incorporated large one-time contributions from the prior year as being likely to re-occur this year. Excluding such contributions would have reduced the amount budgeted to \$65,000. Throughout Mark's report, the Vestry asked questions and engaged in discussion.

Next, Dave Irvin provided the Junior Warden's report, beginning with an update from the Building and Grounds Committee. Dave advised the Vestry that the Building and Grounds Committee had met several times since the last Vestry meeting. He reminded the Vestry that the committee had issued a request for proposals to repair the roof. He explained that the committee had expected receiving four or five bids for the work. But only one company returned a bid for the project, and that bid was significantly more than the committee had anticipated. Dave reminded the Vestry that the committee, with consultation from its consultant, had budgeted for the project. The sole bid returned was approximately \$300,000 more than that budget. Dave and Jim Hodge then explained the reasons for the additional costs in the bid and the failure of many contractors to bid and distributed a document summarizing the variances. They also advised that the committee that they are examining ways to lower the cost, such as by reducing the scope of work. Dave reported that the Building and Grounds Committee did not yet have a recommendation for the Vestry. Throughout the report, the Vestry asked questions and engaged in discussion.

Thereafter, Dave advised the Vestry that, per the Vestry's instructions from the last meeting, the Wardens and the Finance Committee had established an *ad hoc* committee to consider a capital campaign. The committee consists of Dave, Andy

Oaks, and Ann Hanson. Dave provided a report of the *ad hoc* committee's work to date, including the broad issues it is considering.

Thereafter, the Vestry engaged in discussion regarding both a potential capital campaign and the necessary roof repairs.

Next, Father Pat began the Rector's Report. He began by providing an update on Linda Hawley's health and explaining her absence. He also advised that he had excused Father Christopher from attending the meeting to allow him time off after an unusually heavy workload. Father Pat then provided an update regarding stewardship. He asked the Vestry to encourage parishioners to view stewardship as an important way to be engaged in the parish regardless of the amount of the pledge. Father Pat then noted that the Church had hired additional staff since the last Vestry meeting. In particular, it had hired a new sexton and a new Communications Coordinator. Father Pat expressed to the Vestry that he and the staff are very pleased and excited about these new additions. He also noted that Linda has been a tremendous help following Byron Proaps's retirement. Father Pat then advised the Vestry of an issue related to cleaning acolyte robes.

Thereafter, Father Pat reminded the Vestry that the deadline for Vestry nominations is October 20. He then distributed a document listing several potential nominees and noting whether they had been contacted. The Vestry reviewed the document, asked questions, and engaged in discussion. In addition, Allie Brown advised the Vestry that she had been approached by a parishioner with concerns about the current Vestry election method. The Vestry discussed the concerns. It also agreed that the Vestry nomination speeches should be available online for parishioners to view if they are unable to attend the meeting.

Next, Father Pat reminded the Vestry about the email received from a parishioner urging the Church to be more engaged in certain social issues. Father Pat explained that he and Marilyn took the concerns seriously, and Father Pat commended Marilyn for her response. Father Pat also explained that he has made a conscious decision to not preach about social issues based on his perception of the Church's needs at this time.

Father Pat then opened the floor to comments for the edification of the Church and the world, but no parishioners spoke.

Father Pat then reminded the Vestry that its next meeting is November 12, and the Vestry closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Thereafter, upon motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Wanamaker, Clerk

Marilyn Roddy, Senior Warden