

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

May 11, 2021

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 person on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. Present in person was Rev. Pat Wingo, Interim Rector; Brian Wanamaker, Senior Warden; Tim Jeffcoat, Junior Warden; Jim Hodge; Nancy Jones; Ed Lester; Jennifer Moffitt; Pat Richardson; Amanda Rowcliffe; Janet Slabbekorn; and Bill Wood. Present by video conference was Kelsey Mitchell; Sylvia Peters; and Pat Rutenberg. The combination of members present in person and by video conference constituted a quorum. Present by invitation were Rev. Christopher Hogin, Associate Rector; Rev. Caroline Vogel, Associate Rector for Spiritual Development; Mark Medley, Treasure; Beverly Sutton, Senior Bookkeeper, and interim Parish Administrator; and Andy Oakes, Chair of the Finance Committee.

Father Pat chaired the meeting, and Andrew Hale served as Clerk.

Father Pat called the meeting to order at approximately 6:34 p.m. He then led the Vestry in an opening prayer.

Father Pat opened the meeting with a few parting thoughts regarding the purpose of serving on the Vestry, and principles to keep in mind as we go forward. He provided some reflection regarding his time at the Church.

Father Pat then referred the Vestry to the draft minutes of April 13, 2021 meeting, which had been provided to the Vestry in advance of the meeting. On motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the minutes were approved as submitted, with one minor typographical change.

Next, at Father Pat’s request, Amanda Rowcliffe provided the Outreach Commission report, referring to the materials provided to the Vestry in advance of the meeting and attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. Among other items, Amanda discussed the outreach community garden project that the youth is working on, the ECW Charlotte Wood auction, the Family Promise Golf tournament being held on May 21, and the recent drop in food donation requests to Fish Pantry. She also discussed the successful Nemiah Assembly recently held by Justice Knox. Finally, she discussed the new page being added to the website for the Newcomers ministry.

Then, Sylvia Peters provided an update on the Becoming Beloved Community ministry, the education plan for the ministry for the upcoming year, an update on class attendances, and how book classes were integral to that success. A discussion was held regarding a book pilot project, where the Church will be used as a pilot space to read “March” by the late Rep. John Lewis.

Next, at Father Pat's request, Pat Rutenberg provided the Inreach Commission report, referring to the written materials provided to the Vestry in advance of the meeting and attached hereto as **Exhibit B**. Among other things, Pat noted that the ECW auction raised about \$2500, the Shepherds ministry have been making their calls, and the upcoming going away party for Father Pat and Sara Scott. Additionally, Brian noted that every member of the Vestry needs to be certified for the Safeguarding God's Children.

Thereafter, Father Pat opened the Temporal Business Report. It began with Mark Medley and Andy Oakes providing an update from the Finance Committee, referring to the April 2021 Balance Sheet and Comparison, attached hereto as **Exhibits C and D**, respectively. Among other items, Mark noted that the Church is currently on track on budget. Then, Andy provided a report on the budgets, and informed the group that the Home Federal line of credit had been paid off. Next, Mark and Andy provided a report on the concerns of the Endowment Committee discussed at the previous Vestry meeting. They noted that they met with some members of Endowment Committee, and that they believe they have come to a resolution that addresses all of the concerns they had. They are going to meet with all members of the Endowment Committee to confirm this and will report back once they have done so.

Next, Father Pat directed Beverly Sutton to open the interim Parish Administrator's Report. Among other items, Beverly reported that she had met with building and grounds, and that the GPS virus protection system is almost here and will be installed in all of the classrooms.

Then, Tim Jeffcoat opened the Junior Warden Report. Tim referenced the portion of the Finance Committee's summary portion regarding the meeting with Endowment Committee, and that he believes it serves what everyone was looking for. Further, among other items, Tim noted that the Church has begun the eviction process for the tenant in the Agnes House, and that there is flooding in the Parish Hall coming in through the bottom of one of the exterior doors. Then, Jim Hodge discussed the work being done on the air conditioning system to get the humidity out of the air.

Thereafter, Father Pat opened the Clergy and Senior Warden reports. He noted that Sunday protocols are going well, and that we've done away with assigned seating because we haven't reached our capacity limits. Then, a discussion ensued regarding not requiring registration or lifting the time restriction on registration, and protocols for weddings, funerals, and other community use. A resolution was then proposed to leave in place the protocols we have in place for Sunday services for any in building services that involve people outside of the Parish; however, that no registration will be necessary for weddings and funerals, there will not be any check in, and there will not be a cap on attendance. Further, for weddings, the clergy/staff/officiant has the discretion to ask about vaccination status of the bride, groom, and those in the

wedding party in order to make a decision regarding the use of masks for those involved in the wedding, and the same is true for those involved in a funeral. The resolution was seconded and unanimously approved.

Then, Father Pat provided some reflection on the recent Vestry retreat.

Next, Brian Wanamaker opened the Senior Warden report. Among other items, Brian said that he would be sending out an email regarding the final committee assignments, and the roles of chairs and co-chairs. Brian also thanked Father Pat for all that he has done during his time at the Church, and that he has been pitch perfect for everything that has happened during his time here, all the while having to do the traditional work of being a Rector.

Father Christopher stated that he had nothing else to report, other than his comments regarding COVID protocols for use of the building outside of Sunday services. He suggested that the Vestry partner with the new Rector to determine how they partner with wedding vendors. He closed by thanking Father Pat for being encouraging with new ideas.

Next, Rev. Caroline thanked Father Pat for the role he had played in her coming to the Church in her new position. She also noted that she and Father Christopher feel good about how things are moving with Father Bo and are excited with the search process. She noted that the Celtic service is going great and that she wants to make it a normal part of our ministry. Finally, she encouraged people to send 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders to Grace Point this summer, where she will be Dean for a week.

Finally, Brian provided an update on the Search Committee for Neale Weatherhall. He thanked the Vestry for its quick action on parish profile. He discussed the nature of how the Search Committee will take in applications, and that he believes there will be a lot of expressions of interest.

The Vestry then closed the meeting by reciting the Lord's Prayer and, on motion made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Andrew Hale

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Andrew Hale, Clerk

/s/ Brian Wanamaker

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Brian Wanamaker, Senior Warden