

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

April 13, 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 via Zoom video conference on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Present via video conference were Rev. Pat Wingo, Interim Rector; Brian Wanamaker, Senior Warden; Tim Jeffcoat, Junior Warden; Jim Hodge; Nancy Jones; Ed Lester; Clay McManus; Kelsey Mitchell; Jennifer Moffitt; Sylvia Peters; Amanda Rowcliffe; Pat Rutenberg; Janet Slabbekorn; Neale Wetherall; and Bill Wood, constituting a quorum. Absent but duly notified was Pat Richardson. 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. Also present by invitation was the Reverend Bo Townsend.

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 and Brian Wanamaker began the meeting by introducing Reverend Bo Townsend, the new interim Rector for the Church. Brian explained that because Father Pat's time with the Church was coming to an end, Father Bo will serve as an interim Rector until the Search Committee and Vestry have chosen a new Rector.

Father Bo then introduced himself to the Vestry and provided some background about himself. He described how he viewed his role as the second interim Rector during the search for the new Rector, and how he would work with the Church Staff and Clergy to meet the Church's needs. Thereafter, Father Bo exited the meeting.

Father Pat then opened a discussion regarding the transition from himself to Father Bo, and how this transition would be communicated to the Parish. Brian remarked on the nature of Father Bo's time with the Parish. Tim then discussed how much time Father Bo will be in the office, how he will help with the preaching rotation, and the duration of his time with the Parish. Thereafter, upon motion made, seconded, and unanimously approved, the Vestry agreed to continue negotiations and consummation of an agreement for Father Bo to serve as a temporary Interim Rector until the Parish finds a permanent Rector.

Next, Father Pat opened the Associate Rector's report. Father Christopher discussed how the Shepherds ministry would be reorganized. He reassured the Vestry that the

ministry would continue and meet the needs of the Parish. Thereafter, Father Christopher exited the meeting.

Father Pat then referred the Vestry to the draft minutes of March 9, 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.

Next, at Father Pat's request Amanda Rowcliffe provided the Outreach Commission report, referring to the written materials provided to the Vestry in advance of the meeting and attached hereto as Exhibit A. Among other items, Amanda recognized the ECW for their recent donation of a television to the Harley house, the upcoming Justice Knox event in Worlds Fair Park, and that the Church was considering resuming giving out welcome bags to visitors at services. Thereafter, Amanda's daughter, Emily Rowcliffe, the Tween coordinator for the Becoming Beloved Community ministry and a member of the Search Committee, discussed the Youth Group's proposed community garden behind the Harley House that would serve the neighborhood around the Church. A discussion then ensued regarding the proposed garden and planning for its construction.

Thereafter, Father Pat opened the Temporal Commission Report. It began with Andy Oakes and Mark Medley providing an update from the Finance Committee, referring to the March 2021 Balance Sheet and Comparison, attached hereto as Exhibits B and C, respectively. Among other items, Mark noted that the Church is \$45,000 to \$50,000 ahead of schedule on pledges and is under budget on expenses. Andy then discussed the financial impact of Father Bo's time with the Parish, and how it will not add any stress to the current budget. He also noted that the Church's loan with Home federal had been refinanced, and that this gives the Church much more flexibility going forward.

Andy and Mark then provided the Vestry with the Endowment Committee's grant recommendations. They informed the group that the Endowment Committee has a total of \$77,000, and \$40,000 leftover to allocate in grants, which they have recommended to make as follows: \$14,000 for the air ionization for the Sunday school rooms, \$10,000 to the search committee, \$8,140 to Fish, \$5,000 to the Brotherhood of St. Andrews for repairs at St. Lukes. Additionally, the Endowment Committee has asked to use up to 5%, or \$3,847, for its own work, which they plan to use toward the Legacy Society for their own promotional efforts. Andy and Mark emphasized that the Endowment Committee is authorized to request such amounts for these purposes. Thereafter, upon motion made, seconded, and unanimously approved, the Vestry approved the Endowment Committee's recommendations for grants.

Thereafter, a discussion ensued regarding the Endowment Committee's efforts to enhance its transparency and credibility. As a part of this effort, the Endowment Committee asked for a second checking account for transparency and to make it

easier for them to track their finances, and what comes in and comes out of its account. A motion was then made to approve the opening of a new account for Endowment Committee to track the information they want to track. Then a discussion of the Vestry ensued regarding the needs of the Endowment committee and their requests. Brian then moved to table the motion until the next meeting. The motion was seconded, with the condition that a meeting would be held with the Finance Committee and the Endowment Committee to meet and discuss the situation and how the Endowment Committee can get what it needs in the most efficient and effective way. The motion was unanimously approved. The Vestry then had a Consensus that the Finance Committee and Endowment Committee would meet and discuss the Endowment Committee's needs and would report back to the Vestry at the next meeting. Thereafter, a Resolution was proposed by Andy to payoff the line of credit, which was unanimously approved.

Next, Father Pat directed Beverly Sutton to open the interim Parish Administrator Report. Among other things, Beverly discussed that more staff members are starting to come back into the Church, and that pledges keep coming in and unpledged amounts still come in in an amount close to the \$1,000,000 goal.

Thereafter, Tim Jeffcoat opened the Junior Warden Report. Among other things, Tim reported that the trees impeding on the pipes and foundation of the Church will come down and be replaced soon, and that the top of the pews will be refinished in May or June at a cost of approximately \$4,000.

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 D. Among other things, Pat noted the ECW work, the \$1,600 United Bank offering, and that the Shepards ministry will be making calls this month. She also provided an update on the Youth Group beginning to meet in person and are working on a summer mission project.

Then, Father Pat opened the Clergy reports. Father Pat discussed the continuing effort to safely reopen the Church. He noted that the staff feels that if the Church continues to require masks and registration for in person services, then we should allow people to seat themselves rather than in assigned seats. He also noted that a number of groups are resuming meeting in person at the Church, and that the members of those groups will remain masked while in the building, but those who are vaccinated may remove their masks once they reach their designated room. Father Pat then noted that the Vestry Retreat would take place on April 18th in person in the Parish Hall. He noted that Canon Bolt would be there, and that the retreat will mainly focus on the transition between Father Pat and Father Bo.

Next, Rev. Caroline discussed the recent successful Celtic service, and the upcoming Kindness service for children. Thereafter Rev. Caroline exited the meeting.

Thereafter, Brian Wannamaker opened the Senior Warden report. Brian proposed the following Committee Assignments: Search Committee – Neale Wetherall; Inreach – Pat Rutenberg & Kelsey Mitchell; Adult Christian Formation - Ed Lester; Children & Youth – Kelsey Mitchell; Worship & Music – Nancy Jones; Spiritual Life – Janet Slabbekorn; Parish Events – Jennifer Moffitt; Temporal – Vacant; Finance – Tim Jeffcoat; Building & Grounds – Jim Hodge; Communications – Bill Wood; Parish Resources – Clay McManus; Outreach – Amanda Rowcliffe & Clay McManus; Newcomers – Pat Richardson; World Missions – Amanda Rowcliffe; Local Missions – Bill Wood; Becoming Beloved Community – Sylvia Peters & Pat Rutenberg.

Then, Father Pat turned to Neale Weatherhall for an update from the Search Committee. Neale reported that the Parish Profile is close to being done and submitted for approval from the Bishop.

Finally, Father Pat announced that the Vestry would meet in person in the Parish Hall in May for his last meeting as Interim Rector.

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,



Andrew Hale, Clerk



Brian Wannamaker, Senior Warden