The Church of the Ascension

Minutes of the Vestry

August 15, 2023. Minutes amended on 8/19/2023 by Karen Newbern.

Present: Kristan Huddle, Susan Meredith, Cindy Jones, Katherine Lawrence, Doug Thompson, Anji Harris, Rev. Genevieve Nelson, Sally Miller, Pat Duncan, Rick Jones

**I. Welcome**: Kris Huddle called the meeting to order at 7pm. Anji Harris led the opening devotion.

**II. Check in:** How has the Hailstorm of 2023 affected your faith? And what is God asking you and the

church to do? Discussion included:

The hailstorm damages have forced a greater need for patience and faith that all repairs will be completed. We are grateful and blessed that the church has great insurance to cover the repairs. There is a deep sense of appreciation for Susan Meredith and the Buildings & Maintenance team for the hard work they have been doing. We should focus on the good things such as the Sanctuary was not damaged, and the A\C in Rose Hall is working. The storm damage gives us the opportunity to ask, “What does God want us to do with the building in the future”? What changes should we make?

**III. Approval of the Minutes – Register:**

A motion was made to approve the minutes for July 18, 2023. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

**IV. Committee Reports**:

1. Finance Report presented by Doug Thompson. Treasurer reports and documents provided in Vestry email on 8/14/2023.
2. Day School Report – presented by Kris Huddle & Susan Meredith
   1. Day School Closing Letter to the parents is provided in the Vestry email on 8/14/2023. Letter will be sent informing parents of the AEDS closing due to repairs and scheduled re-opening on October 9th,
   2. Teachers will be paid during the closure and will focus on school requirements such as mandatory training. Access will be allowed in September for the teachers to reset their school rooms.
   3. Current schedule has the building repairs completed and ready for the state inspection on time.
3. Buildings & Grounds – presented by Susan Meredith.
   1. Baker Roofing is waiting for the edge strip material to finish up the roofing.
   2. The Day School wing will have new ceiling grid, light fixtures, insulation, and ceiling tiles. Work is to start this week. The Day School items are currently stored in the Sanctuary and Narthex during construction.
   3. The Chapel will be re-painted and Rose Hall ceiling tiles have been replaced.
4. Pastoral Care – Choir members are supplying meals for Karen Parthun during her recovery from surgery.
5. Outreach Report – provided by Sally Miller. Outreach report provided in Vestry email on 8/14/2023.
   1. We have not heard back from the “Back To School Celebration” so Ascension will work directly with Granby schools.
   2. Sally has asked the Vestry to look at the Public Policy website for the National Church and discuss in the next Vestry meeting. The Public Policy is located on the episcopalchurch.org website.
   3. Sally will provide candles for All Saints Day celebration.
   4. Ascension will host Trunk or Treat in October again. More information coming soon on date and time.
6. Formation – Scheduled to start on 9/17/2023. Possible theme is “Rising from the Ashes”.
7. Liturgy – provided by Katherine Lawrence. Liturgy report provided in Vestry email on 8/14/2023.
   1. The quarterly meeting for Lay Readers, Chalices, and Acolytes will be held on Sunday, August 20, 2023 at 9 AM,
   2. Emails will be sent with dates of future events, (i.e Blessing of Animals, etc).
   3. During Karen Parthun’s recovering from back surgery substitute piano players have been scheduled for the church services.
8. Stewardship – provided by Cindy Jones. Stewardship report provided in Vestry email on 8/14/2023.
   1. Lynn Farlin is starting the “TENS Rooted in Abundance Stewardship program” at Ascension in the Fall. Letters will be sent out in August and September announcing the program. Additional information provided in Vestry email on 8/14/2023.
   2. Cindy Jones proposed the following:
      1. Updating the church website with additional activities. Examples include Food Pantry updates and the weekly Bible Study day and time.
      2. Complete an analysis of Ascension’s financial attainability for future years.
      3. Provide updates to the congregation with things the church has done.
9. Don Daly’s funeral - Rick Jones mentioned the condition of the organ needs to be checked due to no AC in Sanctuary & humidity. Stewart has already solidified the bulletin & service.

**V. Vestry Discussion:**

1. The church VM message will be updated with the church closure dates and include Genieve & Kris’ telephone numbers. Simon Marius has updated Facebook and the church website.
2. The schedule for unlocking and locking the church has been completed through the end of October. Lay readers will read the church announcements in the services.

        3. Rev Chip Russell to supply at Epiphany 8/27 for both parishes.

        4. Kris Huddle is the go-to person for Simon Marius Reed while Stewart is on Sabbatical.

        5. There are not any specific rules for Sabbatical funds use in the future. Kris Huddle asked Doug

Thompson to . come up with initial rules to view at future Vestry meetings

        6. Approval for Sabbatical Funds – Rick Jones made a motion to approve Stewart’s use of Sabbatical

funds via email on July 22nd. Approval from the Vestry was completed via email.

**VI. Schedule/Devotions**:

Anji Harris led the closing devotion. The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for September 19th at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Newbern