

Episcopal Church of the Advent
Vestry Meeting Minutes - December 15, 2024

Fr. A. Leonard opened the meeting with prayer at 11:57 am.

Attendance:

Present: A. Gloria, D. Hammond, R. Hudson, P. Kelly, Fr. A. Leonard, L. Morier, J. Morrison, L. Price, J. Rutenberg, and S. Werth. Absent: N. Smith-Wong. Others present: C. Snyder (Intern), S. Maahs (Treasurer), and T. Crane (Guest).

Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of the Vestry Meeting of November 17, 2024 made by S. Werth and seconded by R. Hudson. Motion approved by the Vestry.

Treasurer's Report:

S. Maahs reviewed the November 2024 report and noted that the YTD deficit was less than projected and may be reduced further as additional pledges arrive. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report pending audit and minor corrections to the budget numbers made by L. Morier and seconded by L. Price. Motion approved by the Vestry.

Rector's Report:

Fr. A. Leonard mentioned the completion of Episcopal Church 101, mentioned a new couple as church members, and noted the approval of a new Intern to begin in January. He also mentioned his election to the Disciplinary Board of the Diocese.

Senior Warden's Report:

L. Price commented on the anniversary of Fr. A. Leonard's ordination 28 years ago. He also thanked the Vestry for participation in or support for multiple events or initiatives of the past year including the Vestry Retreat, the transition to Church Windows, the streamlining of some church accounting procedures, the cooperation between ECW and ECM for some church events, the completion of the Parish Survey and institution of some recommendations based on that Survey, the maintenance of church functions while Fr Leonard was on sabbatical, the honoring of church members who were substantially active in our church and who left the area, the ongoing stewardship efforts, the efforts to welcome new church members, the move to develop investment policies, the support of Evangelism, and the work of the Discernment Committee regarding Greg Schell's wish to begin training for the priesthood. He also acknowledged the work of our Intern, C. Snyder, who was instrumental in the training and certification of our Eucharistic Ministers.

Junior Warden's Report:

No report due to N. Smith-Wong's travel.

Old Business:

1. Fr. A. Leonard, after briefly turning the chair over to L. Price, made a motion to thank outgoing Vestry members including M. Francis, L. Price, and S. Werth for their service to our church. Motion seconded by D. Hammond. Motion approved by the Vestry.

2. Nominations for the Annual Meeting to be held at 9 am on January 19, 2025 in the Parish Hall are as follows: SENIOR WARDEN - Noel Smith-Wong. JUNIOR WARDEN - Richard Hudson. VESTRY - Donna Brownstein, Tom Crane, Anna DeForest. DELEGATES TO ATLANTIC CONVOCATION - Diane DePietro, Carol Obligado, Peter Van Syckle, Sharon Werth. DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION - Joanne Price, Greg Schell, Peter Van Syckle.
3. Fr. Leonard mentioned that the church passed the annual fire inspection after some minor repairs. However, a fault in the sprinkler system was discovered by Vector due to the same lightning strike on July 12 that damaged the organ. This older alarm system must be replaced with one that meets current codes. It is hoped that insurance will cover this cost.
4. The church budget for 2025 projects an increased deficit due to an increase in the Diocesan Assessment and a cost of living adjustment for employees. This may be offset by December and later pledges to some degree.

New Business:

1. Fr. A. Leonard announced the ordination of Charlene Snyder to the Diaconate on January 18, 2025 at 2 pm to be held at Christ Church in Somers Point,
2. Fr. Leonard mentioned that a new intern has been authorized for Church of the Advent to begin in January 2025.
3. Fr. Leonard also announced the plan to hold another Vestry Retreat on a Saturday in 2025 to be led by Caroline Carson.
4. L. Price introduced a motion to thank Fred Obligado who is stepping down as Chairman of the Finance Committee after approximately 20 years of service. A small gift will be obtained for him. Motion seconded by P. Kelly. Motion approved by the Vestry.

Other Committee Reports:

1. J. Morrison who is the Vestry Liaison to the Outreach Committee chaired by Alice Vassar mentioned planning for a visit to historical sites relevant to the spirit of the Juneteenth National Independence Day.
2. J. Morrison also mentioned the expansion of Facebook advertising for our public church functions including today's annual Lessons and Carols Service.

The next Vestry Meeting (the Annual Meeting) will be held at 9 am on January 19 in the Parish Hall.

Adjournment:

A motion for adjournment was made by J. Rutenberg and seconded by R. Hudson. Motion approved by the Vestry.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Joel Rutenberg
Clerk of the Vestry**