

**Episcopal Church of the Advent
Vestry Meeting
August 21, 2022**

The meeting convened in prayer by Fr. Alan at 12:08 PM.

Attendance: *Present Vestry* – Rev. Alan Leonard, David Hammond (SW), Barbara Smith (JW), Scott Griffith, Lew Price, Noel Smith-Wong, Martha Francis, and Sharon Werth.

Absent – Frank Garcia, Carol Hoffman, Richard Hudson, and John Coyle.

Minutes: Motion by B. Smith, seconded by S. Werth to approve minutes of June 19, 2022-- *Approved*

Treasurer's Report: Due to a breakdown of the Treasurer's computer there was no Treasurer's report.

Rector's Report: Fr. Leonard reported:

- There were 109 at the 10:30 AM service this morning due to a baptism.
- We hope to be able to schedule a visit from the Bishop soon for confirmation, etc.
- The plan to get acolytes up and running for the Fall has been delayed due to no confirmed acolytes to date.
- The zoom Bible Study will resume on the Monday following Labor Day focusing on the Gospel of Luke.
- We received an unexpected \$6,000 pledge this morning.
- Joel Rutenberg has agreed to be the Stewardship Chair for 2023. Scott Griffith will be transitioning with Joel over the next several weeks.

Senior Warden's Report: D. Hammond reported:

- The Red Cross will not be able to accommodate our needs for CPR/AED/First Aide training. As an alternative, D. Hammond is exploring options through the Cape May County Technical School which may be able to meet our needs at a lesser expense.

Junior Warden's Report: B. Smith reported:

- We had 8 parishioners come to the "Garden Party" who all worked very hard for two hours to spruce up the grounds.
- The roof project is finally completed!
- Michael Kirk has agreed to assist with specific technical, mechanical repairs to assist the Sexton as needed on a paid hourly basis.
- Robert Bullington will be stringing a cable under the floor to wire the microphone for the Lectern to improve sound for live streams.
- We have asked Bill Voda to provide a bid to repair a rotted pillar on the Bride's Porch/Handicapped Entrance to the Sanctuary.
- We continue to move forward to obtain bids to repair outside stairs and make safety upgrades. Once the Property Committee meets and reviews these bids they will be presented to the Vestry for approval.
- We have plans to power wash the Ambulatory.

Old Business

- **Advent Dinners/ECM**—Under the leadership of Peter Van Syckle, the ECM is planning to host two dinners by the end of 2022, as well as a Shrove Tuesday dinner in 2023.
- **Church Celebration Dinner**—Scheduled for Sept. 9 and to be catered by David Craig. Father Alan's Discretionary Fund will be used to cover expenses, which are expected to be approximately \$2,100 (not including beverages) for an estimated 60 attendees. Father Alan is looking for parishioners willing to donate wine. The menu will include a plated salad, chicken breast, and salmon. The dinner will be free of charge to parishioners.

New Business

- **Fire Inspection**--We had a recent fire inspection. The Fire Inspector finally signed off on our Exit Signs in the Sanctuary. Other minor issues noted have already been resolved by our Sexton (e.g., replacement batteries in alarms and CO2 detectors).

- **Start Date of Vestry, Wardens and Convention Delegate Terms of Office—** Typically, terms of office begin immediately following the Annual Meeting when Vestry, Wardens, and Delegates are elected. Our by-laws, however, do not specify the beginning date for terms of office. Over the next several months we will be in the midst of the new Diocesan Bishop “Walk-Abouts” for congregants and Delegates to become familiar with prospective candidates for Bishop. The Electing Convention will be held on January 28. Existing Delegates to Convention will be in a significantly better position to represent the Church at the Electing Convention than will be delegates elected after the Walk-Abouts are held. Therefore, the Vestry felt it necessary to pass the following resolution.

RESOLUTION—Let it be resolved for the year 2023 only that the terms of all offices elected at the 2023 Annual Meeting will begin on February 1, 2023.
Motion by D. Hammond, seconded by S. Werth—*Approved*

- **Advent Service Appreciation Award—**The Vestry discussed the need and desire to recognize specific parishioners for their outstanding and dedicated service to the Church.

A motion was made by B. Smith, seconded by S. Werth to establish an “Advent Service Appreciation Award” to be awarded to specific parishioners at the discretion of the Vestry. Such awards will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Church of the Advent. Furthermore, the Vestry desires to make this award retroactively to the following parishioners: Corbin Cogswell, Pat Keltie, Michael Kirk, and Glenda Unzelmann.--*Approved*

- **Treasurer’s Computer—**The Treasurer’s computer recently crashed and is not repairable.

A motion was made by S. Griffith, seconded by D. Hammond to spend up to \$1,500 for the purchase of a new computer and software for the Treasurer.—*Approved*

- **Posting Approved Vestry Minutes for Parishioners’ Review—**Once draft Vestry Meeting Minutes are approved at the following Vestry Meeting,

they are posted on the Advent website for review by all parishioners. The Vestry decided that, in addition, a hard-copy of the approved minutes would also be posted on the main bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Parishioners can obtain a copy of these minutes by asking the Church Secretary. A blurb describing this process will be included in the Anchor by the Vestry Secretary, L. Price.

- **Diocesan Grant (Loan)**—The Diocese of NJ has a program (funded through the sale of closed church properties) that provides for an application process for grants to Churches as approved by the Diocesan Council. After discussion, the Vestry agreed that the Church of the Advent should improve the presentation of its grounds, especially due to its historic nature and prominent location in the heart of the historic area of Cape May. The landscaping needs upgrading and trees need trimming. Furthermore, the Church needs to improve the safety of all external staircases (i.e., lighting, repairs). A grant application will be prepared by B. Smith, A. Cioffi-Brown and Father Alan for between \$20,000 and \$25,000. This application will be brought to the Vestry for review and action at its September meeting.

Other Committee Reports—None.

Next Meeting Scheduled—September 18, 2022 at noon.

Motion to adjourn at 1:10 PM by D. Hammond, seconded by S. Griffith--*Approved*