

Episcopal Church of the Advent
Vestry Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2023

Fr. Alan opened the meeting with prayer at 12:05 pm. Introductions of all attendees were made considering the presence of two new members, Angela Gloria and Joel Rutenberg.

Attendance:

Present Vestry members were Rev. H. Alan Leonard, Barbara Smith (SW), Lew Price (JW), David Hammond, Martha Francis, Carol Hoffman, Richard Hudson, Angela Gloria, Sharon Werth, Noel Smith-Wong, Joel Rutenberg. Frank Garcia was absent. Present Non-Vestry members included Alison Cioffi-Brown (Treasurer) and Fred Obligado (Finance Chairperson).

Minutes:

Vestry minutes from December 18, 2022 and a Special Vestry Meeting on January 22, 2023 were approved with corrections.

Treasurer's Report:

Alison Cioffi-Brown presented and explained several aspects of the Profit and Loss Budget Performance figures for 2022, reviewed the 2023 Pledges received to date, reviewed the latest Endowment figures, and reviewed Church of the Advent Asset Accounts. A motion was made by Noel Smith-Wong and seconded by David Hammond to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to audit. Approved by the Vestry.

Rector's Report:

Fr. Alan reviewed the upcoming Lenten events.

Senior Warden's Report:

Barbara Smith noted that congregation participation in church events has been diminishing. She suggested the formation of an ad hoc standing Hospitality Committee to serve as an additional resource for special events such as a Bishop's visit. The committee might also assist welcoming people to our church. There was a favorable response among those present and she will further investigate this concept.

Junior Warden's Report:

Lew Price discussed upcoming projects of the Property Committee including stair, sidewalk, and stone repair on the outside of the church.

Old Business:

Fr. Alan mentioned projects of the ECM including the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 21, a church yard sale on October 7, and a proposed art show with details to be determined.

New Business:

1. Fr. Alan noted that Fred Obligado has been the sole money counter each Sunday and there have been no volunteers to assist him. He proposed that the Vestry will form teams to rotate this responsibility.
2. Fr. Alan proposed the participation of Church of the Advent in the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office Safe Place Initiative to allow the church to serve as a temporary safe space for victims of a hate crime. Once accepted into the program, the church will display a Safe Place decal on the door of the parish hall and will follow the simple procedures of that program. A motion to approve the program was made by Barbara Smith and seconded by Angela Gloria. Approved by the Vestry.
3. Alice Vasser is developing an after school homework help program as part of her Outreach initiative for tutoring of Spanish-speaking elementary school children to be held in the parish hall weekly with tutors provided by the Spanish Honor Society at LCMR high school. A motion was made by David Hammond to initiate the program and this was seconded by Lew Price. Approved by the Vestry.
4. The church has a landscaping contract in the amount of \$1525/year. A motion to approve the contract was made by Lew Price and seconded by Noel Smith-Wong. Approved by the Vestry.
5. The church has a 5 year copier lease/service contract with Canon up for renewal at \$112.73/month. Joel Rutenberg motioned for approval. Seconded by David Hammond. Approved by the Vestry.
6. Vestry Committee Liaison members were picked for 2023: ECM-David Hammond, ECW-Barbara Smith, Finance-Noel Smith-Wong, Stewardship-Joel Rutenberg, Evangelism-Sharon Werth, Education-Carol Hoffman, Altar Guild-Angela Gloria, Property-Lew Price, Safety-Frank Garcia.

Other Committee Reports:

No reports due to the length of the meeting.

Next Vestry Meeting: March 19, 2023 at noon.

Motion to adjourn at 1:25 pm made by Carol Hoffman and seconded by Joel Rutenberg.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Rutenberg, Vestry Clerk