

Episcopal Church of the Advent
Vestry Meeting
February 20, 2022

The meeting convened in prayer by Fr. Alan at noon.

Attendance: *Present Vestry* – Rev. Alan Leonard, David Hammond, SW, Barbara Smith, JW, Frank Garcia, Scott Griffith, Lew Price, Noel Smith-Wong, John Coyle, Carol Hoffman, Martha Francis. Also in attendance was Alison Cioffi-Brown, Treasurer.

Absent – Richard Hudson, Sharon Werth

Minutes: Motion by N. Smith-Wong, seconded by C. Hoffman to approve minutes of December 19, 2021-- *Approved*

Motion by D. Hammond, seconded by C. Hoffman to approve minutes of January 23, 2022--*Approved*

Treasurer's Report: A. Cioffi- Brown at her first Vestry presentation since assuming the Treasurer's role from John Lukens, reported the following:

- With the assistance of the Treasurer at First Presbyterian Church in Cape May is converting the accounting system from Revelations to Quick Books. This is expected to provide significantly more flexibility in accounting and reporting. Reports will look different, but will be more user-friendly, as we move forward with the new software.
- The Treasurer at First Presbyterian has also agreed to complete our annual audit.

Motion by S. Griffith, seconded by B. Smith to approve the Treasurer's Report (P & L Budget Performance for January 2022)—*Approved Pending Audit.*

Rector's Report: Fr. Leonard reported:

- COVID cases in Cape May Co. have decreased to 13/100,000 providing some hopeful signs of improvement.
- Fr. Leonard is in the preliminary phase of working with the SW and Supply Priest at St Barnabas on a potential outreach project to provide a free

health-screening and consultation clinic connected to the St. Barnabas Food Pantry.

- For Lent, Fr. Leonard plans to have Stations of the Cross (most likely on Tuesdays). There is also a Lenten Book Reading project that has been launched where parishioners are encouraged to read one or more selected books.
- The local combined church Youth Program continues to be active.

Junior Warden: B. Smith reported:

- She arranged snow removal during the two recent snow events with Joe Stackhouse with success. She was pleased with his professional, complete, and prompt service. She is going to discuss with him the possibility of pursuing an annual contract. The Vestry discussed the pluses and minuses of this approach.
- No change in the roof repair status.
- After considering applying for a property grant proposal for historic properties, the decision was to pass on the opportunity.
- Pictures of furniture and Church items will be updated for potential insurance claim filing purposes.

Old Business

- *Landscaping*--Barbara discussed a proposal to remove Cypress bushes in the front of the Church. She is also going to investigate a proposal for ongoing maintenance of the landscaping.

Motion by B. Smith, seconded by C. Hoffman to spend \$750 for a proposal by Church's Seashore Nursery to remove Cypress bushes in the front of the Church and clean up the area.

- *New Sexton*—Our new Sexton, Ed Donahue, will start work soon. A positive criminal back-ground check was completed. He will be transitioning with Michael Kirk over the next week or so.
- *Celebration Dinner*—Remains on hold until we are comfortable with reduced COVID spread.

New Business

- All Vestry Members introduced themselves to each other with a short background of their history with the Church, etc.
- The following Vestry liaison roles with Church Committees were established for 2022:
 - ECM—J. Coyle
 - ECW—B. Smith
 - Outreach—R. Hudson
 - Education—C. Hoffman
 - Evangelism—N. Smith-Wong
 - Altar Guild—S. Werth
 - Stewardship—S. Griffith
 - Finance—L. Price
 - Property- B. Smith
 - Pastoral Care—M. Francis

Other Committee Reports

ECW—B. Smith reported that there will be a Spring Outdoor Market featuring “nice vintage items.”

Motion to adjourn at 12:58 pm by D. Hammond, seconded by B. Smith--*Approved*