

Episcopal Church of the Advent
Vestry Meeting Minutes
November 20, 2022

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

Attendance: *Present Vestry* - Rev. H. Alan Leonard, David Hammond (SW), Barbara Smith (JW), John Coyle, Frank Garcia, Scott Griffith, Carol Hoffman, Richard Hudson. *Absent* - Lew Price, Noel Smith-Wong, Sharon Werth
Guests - Angela Gloria, Rev. Daniel Hall, Alison Cioffi-Brown, Treasurer

Minutes: Motion by F. Garcia, seconded by D. Hammond, to approve minutes of October 16, 2022 - *Approved*

Treasurer's Report: Motion by D. Hammond, seconded by S. Griffith, to approve Treasurer's Report (P & L Budget Performance for October, 2022) - *Approved Pending Audit*

Rector's Report: Fr. Alan reported the following:

- Advent welcomes a new family with two teenaged children.
- Cape May Ministerial scheduled a Community Thanksgiving to be held at the United Methodist Church this Wednesday @ 7pm. Attendees are requested to contribute items for the food pantry.
- The Youth United group will sponsor a float for the Christmas Parade.
- Frank Garcia will conduct the Confirmation/Reception Program in preparation for the Bishop's visit this spring.

Senior Warden's Report: D. Hammond introduced the scheduling of a meeting of the Nomination Committee for the 2023 Vestry Ballot. Fr. Alan, the Senior and Junior Wardens, and three outgoing vestry members will meet on Monday, December 5th @ 10 am in the office.

Junior Warden's Report: B. Smith provided an update:

- The rotted column on the Bride's Porch has been restored by Bill Vota, Carpenter, and painted by Joy Wadleigh,
- The rotted spot on the Bride's Porch deck has been repaired/stained by Richard Hudson. Richard advised that this is a temporary patch. At some point, several strips of wood will need to be replaced; however, he advised of a change in industry dimensions, and suggested that extra boards be purchased at the time of project completion.
- C. Cogswell intends to power wash the ambulatory this coming week. He will provide the equipment to the Sexton to power wash the emergency stairs of parish hall.
- B. Smith noted that a vehicle has indented the siding of the parish hall at the designated secretary's parking spot (a future repair).

Old Business:

- **Advent Service Appreciation Award** - M. Francis was unable to find a local service, but she cited an online resource/quote. Motion by R. Hudson, seconded by F. Garcia, to approve the

expenditure of \$245.00 for the purchase of a plaque and initial nameplates to launch the Advent Service Appreciation Award. *Approved* (Fr. Alan noted that Mike Kirk will inscribe future name plates.)

- **Diocesan Loan/Grant** - Fr. Alan and B. Smith met with representatives of the Diocesan Loan & Grant Committee to address Advent's application. The committee announced that they will forward a recommendation for approval to the Diocesan Council, scheduled to meet Tuesday, November 22, 2022.
- **Stewardship Campaign** - Pledges for 2023 are trending upward. Reminder calls will be made in early December, as the Finance Committee needs realistic totals in order to finalize the 2023 Budget Proposal. The committee also recommended that the Treasurer send summary reminders to those with outstanding pledge amounts for 2022.

New Business:

- **2023 Preliminary Budget** - The Finance Committee observed that Advent will continue to maintain a \$20,000 annual deficit without a raise in incoming pledges. Fr. Alan noted that a 5% draw from Endowment could be approved to help, though not desirable as standard practice. He announced a challenge to vestry to suggest viable strategies for reducing the deficit.
- **Housing Allowance Resolution** - Motion by D. Hammond, seconded by F. Garcia to approve the "Housing Allowance Resolution," as required by Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code. *Approved*

Other Committee Reports:

Education Committee - C. Hoffman asked whether Sunday School can resume indoors in parish hall. Plans have now been made for them to meet downstairs for more space. Vestry voiced concern about safety, recommending that doors be locked during that time. Also, teachers should be shown how to adjust the thermostat.

Next Vestry Meeting - December 18, 2022 at noon.

Motion to adjourn at 12:50 pm by F. Garcia and D. Hammond.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara D. Smith
(reporting on behalf of Lew Price, Vestry Clerk)