

**The Church of the Ascension
Minutes of the Vestry
April 20, 2021**

Present Via Zoom: Rev. Stewart Tabb, Debra Griggs, Chuck Beers, Anji Harris, Ann McMellin, Mel Phillips, Philip Todd and Kristan Huddle.

I. Welcome: Stewart Tabb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and Ann McMellin led the opening devotion.

II. Register: A motion was made and seconded to approve the corrected minutes of the previous meeting (March 16th) and unanimously approved.

III. Check in question for Vestry Members: How has your worship practice changed or remained the same throughout the pandemic over the past year? Discussion followed.

IV. Parochial Report: See [Attachment #1](#) (Email from Stewart dated April 20, 2021 4:08pm Subject: Meeting reminder, CORRECTED agenda and reports). *This report includes considerable detail on church attendance, services offered, general programming and finances. The Vestry had substantive discussion on our answers to the section entitled "Racial Justice and Reconciliation" – are we actively addressing this as a congregation and as a Vestry? We agreed that we are currently middle of the road on this topic. While we do not have a declared focus on addressing and working toward racial justice and reconciliation, a large gathering attended Adult Forum when Dr. Patricia Turner, one of the "Norfolk Seventeen" spoke, and a few parishioners have participated in "Sacred Ground." We will continue to explore our work in this area. A motion was made to approve the report, seconded and unanimously approved.*

V. Committee Reports: See [Attachment #1](#) (Email from Stewart dated April 20, 2021 4:08pm Subject: Meeting reminder, CORRECTED agenda and reports).

VI. Vestry Items:

1. A decision was made to suspend the virtual coffee hour due to low attendance.
2. Suggestions for Vestry Members: Olga Nichols and Susan Meredith have agreed to serve. Stewart to talk with 2 other possible candidates for the final position.

VII. Clergy Report:

1. The Congregational Meeting is scheduled for 5/16/2021, 9-10am.
2. Mutual Ministry Review scheduled for 5/6/2021, 7pm.
3. Moving towards normalcy. Continue the outdoor services; positivity rate is coming down.
4. Fred Poorman's memorial service scheduled for 5/2/2021 at 3pm.
5. Vestry Retreat scheduled for Saturday, 5/22/2021 9:30am to 3:30pm (place to be determined)

VIII. Schedule/Devotions: Ann McMellin led the closing devotion. The next regular Vestry meeting is scheduled for Tuesday June 17, 2021 at 7:00pm. Closing devotions for June meeting deferred to 5/22 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Huddle

