

**The Church of the Ascension
Minutes of the Vestry
September 29, 2020**

Present Via Zoom: Rev. Stewart Tabb, Canon Hoffman, Chuck Beers, Debra Griggs, Anji Harris, Robert Baird, Harry Porfert, Chester Long, Philip Todd, Mel Phillips, Beverley Buston and Kristan Huddle.

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

II. Register: A motion was made and seconded to approve the amended minutes of the previous meeting (September 15th) and unanimously approved.

III. New Business:

- 1. Possible Mutual Ministry Review:** Canon Roy Hoffman present. See Attachment #1 (Email from Stewart Tabb dated 9/18/20, 5:56PM subject "MMR Overview"). Discussion followed regarding what, when and how the MMR is conducted. Agreement reached to put the matter on the February 2021 Vestry meeting agenda to schedule the MMR in the spring and after Beverley Buston's review is complete. Canon Hoffman provided his email address to the Vestry members: RHoffman@diosova.org.
- 2. Thanks to Robert Baird for his service and appointment of Doug Thompson to fill the seat of Robert Baird:** Robert sent an updated resignation letter with the new effective date of 9/29/20. A motion was made to accept the updated resignation date, seconded and unanimously approved. Then a motion was made to appoint Doug Thompson to fill Robert's unfulfilled term on the Vestry, seconded and unanimously approved.
- 3. Fall Worship:** Stewart led the discussion regarding regathering for indoor worship. In order to resume indoor worship, the Safety Committee will need to provide our plan to the Bishop for approval. Options for Communion were discussed. The Vestry agreed to Communion with bread only (the wine will remain on the altar). It was determined that the outdoor service will continue through October, and with the Bishop's approval, indoor services will begin in November.
- 4. Fall Formation:** Stewart discussed the survey responses regarding formation. Following discussion it was decided to wait and see the response to Rick Jones class on Parables.
- 5. Clarification of Vestry Commissions:** In the interest of time, Stewart will call the Chairs of each Commission to discuss the description of their duties, and how each Commission Chair will work together with the other Commissions. Debra Griggs asked about the necessity at this time of a Communications Commission. It was determined that if the new secretary will continue Nellwyn's responsibility of handling emails, bulletins and website updates, that there is not a need for a separate communications commission at this time. Debra further noted that the Parish should be educated on the duties of the Commissions and that more information is available on the "PLEASE JOIN"

bulletin board in the church. She further volunteered to write a condensed version of the Vestry minutes to be included in the announcements with the Highlights.

6. **Membership Trends:** Stewart provided some information regarding active and inactive membership of both members and nonmembers for the years 2015-2019. Discussion followed and the Vestry decided to continue the discussion to provide more information on the number and reasons for why people left Ascension as well as the numbers of parishioners gained during the same period.
7. **Flowers:** Harry Porfert reminded the Vestry that Sarah and Laurel are leaving Norfolk and have sold their business, The New Leaf. Stewart will talk with them for their recommendations of florists to continue to provide flowers for the church.

IV. Schedule/Devotions: Robert Baird led the closing devotion. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 7:00pm. Anji Harris will lead the devotions for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Huddle