

**The Church of the Ascension
Minutes of the Vestry
November 17, 2020**

Present Via Zoom: Rev. Stewart Tabb, Chuck Beers, Debra Griggs, Anji Harris, Ann McMellin, Harry Porfert, Chester Long, Philip Todd, Mel Phillips, Doug Thompson, Beverley Buston and Kristan Huddle.

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

II. Register: A motion was made and seconded to approve the corrected minutes of the previous meeting (October 20th) and unanimously approved.

III. Check in question for Vestry Members: What are the joys and challenges you have faced in the last month? Discussion followed.

IV. Beverley Buston: Discussion of the Leadership Model: How we set tasks and work together; what we bring as individuals; and how we are as a spiritual body.

What we are doing well:

1. The monthly check in allows us to hear and share both the joys and challenges in our lives.
2. Prayer partners: The more we share and build community with each other the better. Continuing these relationships is essential.

Churches that are growing and surviving have a vested interest in small groups such as Vestry, choir, prayer groups and friends, all of which foster meaningful spiritual relationships.

V. Committee Reports:

1. **Finance:** Chuck Beers present. See [Attachment #1](#) (Email from Stewart dated 11/12/00 12:41pm Subject: Vestry Reminder Meeting Nov 17th). In addition the PPP paperwork has been completed and is awaiting an answer.
1. **Building and Grounds:** Anji Harris present. See [Attachment #1](#) (Email from Stewart dated 11/12/00 12:41pm Subject: Vestry Reminder Meeting Nov 17th). In addition, the Office carpet needs to be replaced for a cost of \$2200 to be paid out of Building and Grounds reserves.
2. **Pastoral Care:** Philip Todd present. Thanksgiving baskets have been delivered to the homebound members.
3. **Fellowship:** Harry Porfert present. Nothing new to report.
4. **Liturgy:** Mel Phillips present. See [Attachment #1](#) (Email from Stewart dated 11/12/00 12:41pm Subject: Vestry Reminder Meeting Nov 17th) for the notes from the Liturgy Committee meeting 11/9/00. Following discussion regarding the increasing positivity rate for Covid 19 cases, a motion was made to suspend the in person services at 10am, seconded and unanimously approved. Doug Thompson to keep us informed as positivity rates go down and when it may be possible to regather in person. The service to be held

in the parking lot of Talbot Hall Baptist this Sunday will continue as planned. The 8:30 service will continue via Facebook live stream beginning again 11/29/00.

5. **Outreach:** Ann McMellin present. We will be doing Christmas stockings and Angel Tree this year. Trunk or Treat went well this year. Still accepting donations for the Mission of the Holy Spirit Thanksgiving baskets.
6. **Day School:** See [Attachment #1](#) (Email from Stewart dated 11/12/00 12:41pm Subject: Vestry Reminder Meeting Nov 17th). In addition Mark Hatler requested a need for an additional bulletin board to be posted on the wall outside Rose Hall to be used for *Helpful Information for Parents*. Some of the coat hooks on that wall would need to be

VI. Formation: Stewart Tabb present. The four persons that Patti Glowatsky had said had expressed an interest in helping with the children's classes were contacted and all four stated they were not able to be counted on in a consistent manner. Stewart said we need to connect in intentional ways with the families to provide them with resources for continuing their children's faith education. Currently the Diocese is providing a Zoom program for high school students and their parents on strategies for dealing with issues arising from Covid 19. More of our youth might participate in diocesan youth offerings like the COVID self-care class if there was a person at Ascension with whom they have a relationship to communicate the offerings and encourage youth to attend. Following discussion it was decided to add a notice in the bulletin requesting that anyone interested in taking a leadership role in formation should contact Stewart. Philip Todd to let Stewart know of anyone else he thinks she should approach to help with formation.

VII. Fundraising and Outreach: Chuck Beers said the current policy is to notify the Junior Warden of the fundraising request to be approved by the Vestry. Fundraisers are different from Outreach in that they are designed to make a profit. Debra Griggs volunteered to look at the current process to see if it can be streamlined.

VIII. Diocesan Pledge: See [Attachment #1](#) (Email from Stewart dated 11/12/00 12:41pm Subject: Vestry Reminder Meeting Nov 17th) for the Diocesan Pledge form. Diocese is asking for 10% or \$30,000. Last year Ascension's pledge was \$15,000. Stewart's suggestion was to increase the pledge by 1% per year until we reach the 10% tithing number. Discussion followed as to whether to pledge the \$18,000 per the 1% increase or continue the current pledge for 2021. A motion was finally made to continue the \$15,000 pledge like last year, seconded, and approved by a majority.

IX. Housing Resolution: See [Attachment #1](#) (Email from Stewart dated 11/12/00 12:41pm Subject: Vestry Reminder Meeting Nov 17th) for a copy of the letter. A motion was made to approve the Housing allowance for the Rector, seconded, and unanimously approved.

X. Schedule/Devotions: Mel Phillips led the closing devotion. The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Harry Porfert will lead the devotions at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Huddle

