

The Church of the Ascension

Minutes of the Vestry

February 20, 2024

Present: Stewart Tabb, Kristan Huddle, Susan Meredith, Cindy Jones, Katherine Lawrence, Anji Harris, Sally Miller, Rick Jones, Doug Thompson

I. Welcome: Stewart Tabb called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Rick Jones led the opening devotion.

II. Check in: How are you approaching this Lenten season?

III. Approval of the Minutes

Stewart read minutes from January retreat. Stewart noted that the minutes from December 2023 Vestry meeting were approved during the retreat. Amended January retreat minutes will include the December 2023 minutes approval and resent to Vestry members for approval.

IV. Committee Reports:

1. Finance Report – presented by Stewart. Full Treasurer reports and documents attached below.
 - a. Budget – Stewart & Susan reviewed Jane’s proposed 2024 budget. There is a projected deficit of \$19,910 for the year, not per month as indicated in Treasurer’s report. Additional pledges have come in since last meeting and now at \$212,000.
 - b. Cindy Jones noted another church posts their finances in their newsletter. Our congregation is not aware of our budget and we should be more transparent. Idea presented to post the budget in the church bulletin.
 - c. Money will be transferred from the bequest fund for the Nursery expense & Genieve’s salary.
 - d. Budgeted 5% of gains from investment fund as income. Doug recommended not doing this as a monthly budget item.
2. 2022 Audit – Doug has reviewed 2022 budget for the audit. Stewart will email Audit findings for Vestry review and approval.
3. Stewardship Report – presented by Cindy Jones.
4. Buildings & Grounds – presented by Susan Meredith.
 - a. Heating & A\C contract for Sanctuary is \$80,000. Additional costs of \$4000 for smoke detector, increase make-up air to 10%, and louver vent frozen shut.
 - b. Unit installation complete and now running,
5. Liturgy – report attached
6. Outreach Report – provided by Sally Miller. Full report attached below.
 - a. NEST will be at Royster Presbyterian week of March 10th.
7. Formation Report – provided by Stewart Tabb
 - a. Just Faith class starting in April. A motion was made to approve the cost of the books for the course. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

V. Clergy Report - provided by Stewart Tabb

1. Ascension will host an interfaith Iftar celebration on March 17th at 5:30pm.
2. Question on what to do with the 8:00am service. Service has been moved to the Chapel and some people like the move and others do not. How do we meet everyone’s needs?
3. Staff changes – Karen Parthum is leaving Ascension with 2 week notice and going to Eastern Shore church. This leaves Ascension without music director for Easter.

VI. Schedule/Devotions:

Rick Jones led the closing devotion. The next Vestry Meeting is scheduled for March 19th at 7pm. Cindy Jones will lead the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Newbern



liturgy.pdf



Balance Sheet as of
January 31, 2024.pdf



Treas - Jan 2024.pdf



Treasurer's Report as
of January 2024 for G



Outreach follow UP
TO MINUTES 2_9_24