

**The Church of the Ascension
Minutes of the Vestry
January 19,2021**

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

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

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

III. Check in question for Vestry Members: What does being a disciple of Jesus mean to you? Discussion followed.

IV. Committee Reports: See [Attachment #1](#) (Email from Stewart dated 1/19/21 2:19pm Subject "Reminder Vestry at 7pm). Additionally, Debra Griggs will send the revised forms regarding Fund Raising to the Vestry.

V. Discussion moving toward clarity regarding how the Vestry, Rector and people work together: Sam Webster present to answer questions on Canons and Bylaws.

1. Relationship between Clergy and Parish is a Mutual Ministry and not Employer/ Employee.
2. Rector has the authority for worship and music.
3. Vestry has the authority for the corporate property and the relationship with the Rector.
4. Very specific rules in the Canons for dealing with a dispute between Rector and the Vestry and are oriented towards working out the relationship vs. dissolving the relationship.
5. The Vestry cannot fire the Rector and the Rector cannot resign without approval of the Vestry and the Bishop.
6. We are working on how we can make our relationship better following the Baptismal Covenant. We need to establish relationships so that the people will talk to us and tell us their concerns so that the Vestry can head off a conflict before it takes over.
7. If each of our Commissions are careful to have parishioners involved then those commission meetings can be a vehicle for congregational input and involvement.

VI. Action Item: A Zoom Coffee Hour following the service, beginning February 14th and then every other week for two months. Initially the Coffee Hour will be a Social event for parishioners to have the opportunity to see and talk with each other. The Vestry will be present and be available to answer questions, etc. Anji, Ann and Kris will send personal invitations to all parishioners. Doug to be the moderator and set the agenda for the first meeting on 2/14.

VII. Clergy Report: Continued to the next Vestry Meeting.

VIII. Schedule/Devotions: Stewart Tabb led the closing devotion. The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM. Anji Harris will lead the devotions at this meeting.

Addendum: The Vestry unanimously approved to apply for a second round PPP loan, via email vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Huddle