

Episcopal Church of the Ascensions

Vestry Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2023

Quorum present – John Adams, Brenda Worley, Linda Hamilton, Jeff Tindall, Sandi Behrens, Jimmy Hyde, Kristen Braid, Judith Cunningham, Neal Brunt, Corinne Scott-vestry clerk.

Email votes taken since last meeting: On December 14, 2022 Linda Hamilton motioned to accept the November 2022 minutes as written and to skip the December 2022 vestry meeting. Brenda Worley made the second. Motion carried.

New Vestry members welcomed: Kristen Braid (Christian Formation), Judith Cunningham (Fellowship), and Neal Brunt (Finance).

Rector search update – Now on the fourth search, which closed for applicants January 7, 2023. Several names received and interviews will begin this week via Zoom. Issues the search committee faced on previous searches were Covid, money for rector salary package and an effort to be competitive with the offer, and website (which many candidates view) was still in progress. The salary was increased and family health insurance coverage would be a negotiable point.

Financial review - presented by Neal Brunt. The 2023 budget is in deficit. The prior years' excess cash will cover this deficit but not a trend Ascension needs to be doing. Stewardship giving for 2023 came up short and expenses predicted to be higher. There were discussions over which ministry budgets and operational expenses could be cut. Repairs and property maintenance are not built into the budget as such expenses are too unpredictable. Fulltime rector and organist/choirmaster salaries only factored in for 6 months. Several suggestions for budget amendments would be passed on to Mal Underwood, parish treasurer to be used to re-work the 2023 budget in order for the vestry to vote by email later in the week on a budget to present to the parish during the annual meeting.

Junior Warden Election – John Adams nominated Brenda Worley to serve as Junior Warden. Neal Brunt made the second. Motion carried.

Water damage and repairs to parish hall update - A new heating system should be installed and operational in about 10 days. All tear out work has been done. A time table for completing all the repairs is not yet known.

CPR -Vestry and others interested need refresher and defib training

Mary Beth Benson, Youth Director/ Communications, will be resigning effective March 1, 2023. A job description will be posted.

Could some of Mary Beth's hours be allocated to the parish administrator position to fill the communications responsibilities? If parish administrator hours are increased, benefits have to be offered.

Ministry job descriptions need to be written and readily available for everyone.

Website – It is basically ready for the parish to submit content. Site not launched. Jeff Tindall to take lead to get the website built. Critical for the rector search.

Other items:

Vestry retreat – when and where?

Herb Buffington will stay as interim organist/choirmaster through April, except for Easter Sunday. A search for a substitute is in progress.

Live stream quality has improved.

Nursery attendant has resigned for personal reasons. Replacement to be sought.

Will the parish hold Lenten Suppers? If so, who will lead and what will the program be?

Inventory – each ministry needs to complete an inventory of property for insurance purposes.