

The Church of the Ascension
Minutes of the Vestry
January 21, 2020

Present: Rev. Stewart Tabb, Susan Motley, Chuck Beers, Lana Butler, Robert Baird, Anji Harris, Ann McMellin, Mel Phillips and Tim Westfall.

1. Welcome: Susan Motley called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Anji Harris led the opening devotion.

11. Register: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the previous month's meeting (December 17, 2019) and unanimously approved.

111. Staff Reports: See Attachment #1 DATED January 21, 2020 of report from Patti Glowatsky. No report submitted from Mark Hattler.

1V. Building and Grounds Report: Tim Westfall present. See attached report. Tim added that there is no update on the sound system.

V. Pastoral Care Report: Mel Phillips present. No report this month due to George Maihafer being ill.

V1. Food Pantry: Lana Butler present. See attached report. Lana noted that the Food Pantry has been moved up to "Great Status" and the cost of food at the Food Bank will be reduced from 18 cents per pound to 12 cents per pound.

V11. Outreach and Fellowship Report: NEST is going well and has everything they need except water bottles. The numbers of guests this year is considerably below that of last year with most nights averaging 30 to 40 men and women. Betty Deutsch and Richard Drumwright are the leaders from our church. Several area restaurants have made donations towards the breakfasts and dinners.

V111. Treasurers/Finance Report: Chuck Beers present: See attachment. Chuck noted that we finished 2019 with expenses equaling income. However, one has to include the \$15,000 surplus from 2018-2019 to make this possible. Also, there were lower expenses in 2019 by \$10,000. Pledges received are at 73, the same as last year, but the total in dollars pledged is \$7,500 less than last year. Nine of these pledges are new ones. The church also received \$7,000 from the estate of Ed Johnston. The 2020 budget is to come in February. Also discussed was the cost of hiring nursery workers. Church rules require that two caretakers are present at a salary of \$45 each. We have to pay \$90 every Sunday to support the nursery even if no children are present.

New Business

Search Committee for Choir Director and Organist: Emily Dale will head this search committee.

Security Measures: A need for increased church security measures was discussed in light of violent acts in recent years on churches, synagogues, and mosques. Several ideas were put forward including having pepper spray available to ushers and locking more of the doors during the church services. The Rev. Stewart Tabb noted that she is against having guns or other weapons brought into the church. Several Vestry members requested more information from experts on the subject of security. The discussion will be continued.

The Consecration: The consecration of our new bishop, Susan Haynes, will be held on February 1, 2020 in Williamsburg. Stewart encouraged everyone to attend and carpool if possible.

Organ Update: The organ required repairs and it cost \$4,500 to fix it.

Update on Tyrone Harris: Tyrone is allowed on the church property for services, formation studies, and public church events. He is not to be on the property during school hours during the week except to attend the Food Pantry one visit monthly. Stewart also added that Tyrone has been texting Vestry members.

Rector's Report: Stewart announced that she will become eligible for a sabbatical of three months in 2021. She requested help from the Vestry in the planning of her sabbatical. Stewart is seeking grant money, in particular, the Lilly Clergy Renewal Grant, to assist in her travel expenses and the support of the congregation. The church will have supply clergy during her absence.

Old Business:

Identify Vestry Highlights: Chuck Beers

Devotions for February 18: Robert Baird

Closing Devotion: Anji Harris