The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
March 2025
Vestry Meeting Minutes

Quorum – The Rev. Alex Dyer, Keith Limardo, Erle Newton III, Seth Wilhoite, Cathy Harville, Kelley Dial, Lindy Agan, Kristen Braid, Judith Cunningham and Neal Brunt. Corinne Scott-clerk.

March 2025 Minutes – Erle Newton III motioned to accept the minutes with the correction of adding the names Kelley Dial and Keith Limardo with Kristen Braid to the WHY statement re-work committee. Alex Dyer made the second. Motion carried.

Finance report – Income and pledge levels still good for the last month. Some pledges have been paid in advance. There were two diocesan pledge payments recorded in March and so no payment will be reflected in the April finance report. Some admin expenses went over budget, i.e. building & grounds repair of the kitchen oven, other expense line included software renewals, and the copier line had an additional invoice. Overall the first quarter has been good.

There was no unusual activity for the restricted funds. The organ fund monies were transferred to vestry restricted funds as decided previously.

The estate of Barbara Thompson gift to Ascension will be around $100K. The funds have yet to be received. The procedure will be the vestry receives the funds officially and hands them to the Legacy Ministry for managing. Members of the Legacy Committee are Mike Davis (2027), Guy Parmenter (2026), Connie Evans (2026), Linda Hamilton (2027), and Peggy Brown (2025). Ex officio members are the Rector, Senior Warden, and Treasurer. Interest on investments is collected on a 3 year average and a certain percentage is drawn down and presented to the vestry for a decision on the use.

Disciple and Apostleship reports were reviewed. No discussion.

Comprehensive Campus Taskforce – The architect's (Duo Dickinson) visit is May 10. The event has two sessions- presentation, break, and Q&A with ideas/wishes. The expenses for this will be paid by funds from Age to Age. Kelley Dial motioned to increase the budget for this event to $1500. Erle Newton III made the second. Motion carried.

Alcohol use policy development still in progress. Discussion tabled until next month.

Dealing with Conflict - A handout was provided describing the various types of conflict or situations when conflict may arise. A point was made to understand conflicts will occur and are a sign of growth and a passion for what is best for the parish. The goal is to be proactive with conflict and not reactive.

Adaptive challenge to discuss – Our Outreach Ministry. While there are technical adaptations, such as youth projects lead by Cathy Harville and Riley Barrington, the adaptive challenge centers around a cultural shift in the idea of Outreach. While individuals do good work on their own, there hasn't been a parish wide drive to seek out a new mission or opportunity since the main parish project, The Red Door Food Pantry, is operating more and more independently. What can the parish do now? Opportunities exist in our community such as fostering, mentoring, and work with Bartow Collaborative. The vestry needs to think and pray about a collective solution to our Outreach challenge, whether the projects are short term or long term.

Red Door Food Pantry bylaw change presented- A simpler definition of the Board of Directors composition and term length was presented. The bylaws still had the language of the initial formation of the board and church members (Senior Warden and Outreach chair) as permanent members of the Board. Since these positions can change yearly this would be a hardship on the RDFP Board and terms management. Therefore it is now not mandatory for the Senior Warden and Outreach chair to be RDFP board members. The rector still has the power to appoint 4 members from the parish to serve on the board and the remaining 4 board positions come from the wider community.

Erle Newton III motioned to accept the bylaw changes. Seth Wilhoite made the second. Motion carried.