The Episcopal Church of the Ascension
Cartersville, Georgia
Vestry Minutes
April 23, 2026

Present: L. Agan, A. Cook, S. Davis, K. Dial, A. Dyer, J. Hyde, E. Newton III, G. Parmenter, L. Twyford, S. Wilhoite

Clerk: J. Cunningham
Treasurer: N. Brunt (absent)
Guest: S. White

I. Approval of March Minutes

G. Parmenter moved to approve the March minutes as presented. J. Hyde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Bible Study

The Vestry engaged in a study of Acts 2:42–47.

III. Financial Reports

A. Year-to-Date Review

Documents provided by N. Brunt, prior to the meeting, were reviewed.

B. Financial Overview

Discussion included:

- A question was raised regarding the need for more intentional Vestry engagement in financial planning and long-term budgeting strategy.
- The Finance Committee reported that it is currently reviewing the existing budget and exploring improvements to the budgeting process, including increased input from ministry leaders and staff.
- The goal is to begin the 2027 budget process in July or August to provide the Stewardship Committee with a clear and actionable financial target.

The current budget process was reviewed:

1. Finance Committee prepares an initial draft
2. Draft is submitted to the Vestry
3. Vestry may recommend revisions or return the draft for further development

IV. New Business

A. Local Mission – Conversation with Sarah White
E. Newton outlined expectations for local mission engagement and encouraged S. White to approach this work with flexibility, creativity, and a willingness to experiment. The Vestry affirmed its full support.
S. White presented initial ideas for local mission development. The

Vestry affirmed the following:

- S. White will form a Local Mission Committee
- She will recruit members to participate
- She will conduct a parish survey and develop a six-month plan
- She has the Vestry's ongoing guidance and support

The Vestry further clarified that support includes:

- Active participation and engagement by Vestry members
- Prioritizing local mission as a core parish commitment
- Encouraging broad parish involvement

B. Nomination to Legacy Committee
E. Newton moved to nominate Meghann Humphreys to fill the unexpired term of Connie Evans on the Legacy Committee. J. Hyde seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Old Business

A. Sacred Ground – Next Steps

S. Davis reported on outcomes from the Sacred Ground series, an Episcopal Church dialogue program on race and faith. Feedback and recommendations from participants were compiled and prioritized.
Initial areas of focus include:

- Supporting New Frontier, particularly through holiday meal ministries
- Increasing consistent presence in the community
- Cultivating authentic relationships

Additional suggestion:

- Invite local African American leaders to share their stories in Rector's Forums or midweek gatherings

Action: J. Hyde will contact Bibby Morgan.

B. Restructure Task Force Update

The Task Force has invited six parishioners representing a cross-section of the congregation (including both long-term and newer members).

Their charge:

- To develop recommendations for a more mission-focused, adaptable, and innovative parish structure
- To move away from a rigid, “traditional church” model toward one that better supports local ministry and deeper engagement from members.

A report is expected by August. Following its submission, the Vestry will discern which recommendations to implement.

C. Campus Master Plan

David Strickland of CDH Partners has provided an initial questionnaire to begin the campus master planning process, focusing on demographic and facility information.

- K. Dial will complete the questionnaire
- A. Dyer will submit it to CDH Partners

A preliminary project timeline was shared with the Vestry. No questions or concerns were raised.

VI. Closing Prayer

The meeting concluded with prayer.