The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

Vestry Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2025

Quorum- Rev. Alex Dyer, Brenda Worley, John Adams, Keith Limardo, Lindy Agan, Kristin Braid, Judith Cunnigham, Erle Newton III, Neal Brunt, Cathy Harville, Seth Wilhoite, Kelley Dial, Corinne Scott-clerk. Absent-Jeff Tindall.

Minutes- the December 2024 vestry meeting minutes were reviewed. Erle motioned to accept the minutes with a minor change to a name misspelling. Keith Limardo made the second. Motion carried. November 2024 minutes were approved via email prior to today's meeting. Erle Newton II motioned to accept the minutes. Brenda Worley made the second. Motion carried.

Financial – The December pledges were good as expected. Many make-up pledges come in during this time. A generous donation was made to help reduce the deficit. Expenses were in line within the budget. The Outreach ministry funds were distributed as proposed in the prior vestry meeting.

The special accounts funds were reviewed. These funds are for specific usage according to the donor. However, the Other Restricted fund ($2035.69) had no notes how the funds were to be spent. Neal requested this fund be closed and moved to Vestry Restricted Funds. Keith made the motion. John made the second. Motion carried. The Veteran Aid account was closed with the balance donated to Wounded Warriors. The balance of the Rector's Gifts ($247.73) was transferred to the Rector's Discretionary Fund of St. Andrew's, Jackson, MS where our parish seminary graduate, Chris McAbee, now works. The Endowment Fund (common fund) should be transferred to Raymond James accounts. Keith motioned the entire balance ($56,682.87) be transferred. John made the second. Motion carried. The Memorial Savings ($653.00) should be transferred to Operating. Erle made the motion. Lindy made the second. Motion carried.

Judith motioned to accept the finance report for December 2024. Brenda made the second. Motion carried.

2025 Budget

The proposed budget was presented to the vestry for review. Neal explained the major highlights of the income components, ministry expenses, administrative expenses, and personnel expenses. Various assumptions and recurring expenses are used to establish the budget. Many line items were set based on the 2024 expenses. Some revisions were requested- increase the pledge total to $339K and increase the Rector's expense allowance to$2500. The 2025 budget will have a deficit of $35K.

Rev. Alex stressed the importance to establish a multi-year plan for budgeting. One that is conservative yet realistic. Both income and expenses will increase in order for parish growth and mission.

Erle motioned to accept the2025 budget. Judith made the second. Motion carried.

Annual Meeting will be January 26 consisting of the Rector's report, Wardens' Reports, Narrative Budget, and Vestry Elections.

Reports from Pastoral Care, Flower Guild and Welcome and Connect were given to the vestry.

The Legacy Committee members' terms discussion tabled until clarification of the current members' term lengths were understood.

Disaster Preparedness plan to be implemented by Erle and Seth. Ushers will be trained.

Red Door Food Pantry proposes new by-laws and a change in board composition. Specifics to be determined by RDFP and presented to the vestry.

Vestry Retreat to be at the Evan's Farm.

Campus Comprehensive Committee advised an architect should be hired to assess needs. This could run between $2-$4K. Presented to vestry for consideration.