

Episcopal Church of the Ascension

Vestry Meeting
October 27, 2024

Mission Statement

The Episcopal Church of the Ascension's mission is:
"To restore all people to unity with God and each other."

We strive to be a radically inclusive community with diverse and vibrant worship, intentionally focused on children and youth, caring for each other, and on being the hands and feet of Christ in all that we do.

Present: Fr. Paul, Tom, Katie, Joan, Steve, Ginger, Aaron, Audry, Marsha

Absent: Todd, Herb

Devotional: Aaron

Prayer requests: Paul Mahoney and family, Marsha for travel, Mary Jo and Kent, our confirmands, David, Jerry, our country

Ordinary Business:

Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve made by Joan, second made by Katie. Motion approved.

Financial Reports - Motion made to approve by Tom, second made by Joan. Motion approved.

New and continuing business:

a) Social media engagement - Paul gave us a reminder how to leverage it to our benefit. You can earn reach by getting a group or team that uses social media, and encourage them to share items.

Don't forget about YouTube. It's more searchable than Google, FB and Instagram. Comment "I'm a member of Ascension, and ...". We get points based on how quickly people comment, who comments on the shares, etc. We need to make sure we know who are the appointed people at each event to take photos and share on social media. Send photos to media@ascensiondallas.org.

b) Staffing update - Alice Frederick is the new Formation Director. She has a strong education background, and has worked in churches. She has a love for and interest in volunteer recruitment.

c) Capital items and possible campaign - Continuing to get bids and finalize the campaign. We will probably announce it at Annual Meeting.

Items so far: Herb garden and tree removal, doors, bathrooms, maybe the ADS bathroom, HVAC partial replacement, HVAC fund for the future, additional security for camera and locks, south playground (shared cost with ADS), erosion control and irrigation. Our liaison is Steve. We will need to organize the project, and analyze the market so we have a name for branding. Fr. Paul and Strong Construction are working on bids. Our first ask will be to the Vestry and ADS, and other major givers. We will also ask the Dinka. At Vestry next month we will get big picture, and use December to fine tune it, and then present at the Annual Meeting. We will ask Bill and Beth to do the graphics. Ginger will help with communication. We may give people two years to complete their pledge. We also need to find a volunteer project manager from the church to manage the smaller projects.

d) Dinka agreement review - Fr. Paul reviewed the fee schedule and the monthly fee, which has increased. The fee schedule hasn't changed. There was a discussion about specific parts of the contract for clarity. Fr. Paul will present the contract to Deng after it is approved. Motion to approve the contract as it stands made by Ginger, second by Tom. Motion approved.

e) ADS request - Moved to executive session.

f) Bishop Smith visit on 11/10. Does the vestry want to meet with him separately? No.

g) Vestry Recruitment - Elizabeth Vaughn (no), Shelley Heron (yes), Ursula Burns, Kathleen Rylander, Ann Moisuk (yes), Kabir Masters, Beth Dunham

Reports

a) Junior Warden - not present

b) Senior Warden - Tom; nothing more

c) Rector - Fr. Paul; The last two weeks felt like triage. We had a conversation about noise in the worship space or the narthex.

Calendar of upcoming events:

Safety training - Saturday, November 2

Austin Street - Saturday, November 2

Ingathering - Sunday, November 3

Diocesan Convention - Saturday, November 9

Confirmation with the Bishop - Sunday, November 10

People to thank -

Next Month's devotional - Joan

Next Month's Offering Team - Herb and Marsha