

Episcopal Church of the Ascension

Vestry Meeting

July 28, 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, Chris, Katie, Herb, Joan, Steve, Ginger, Aaron, Marsha, Audry

Absent: Todd

Devotional: Steve

Prayer requests: Mary Ann and the Lyons family, Carrie, Jimmy, Samantha, David, Hoover, Janine, Jerry, Nancy, Catherine and Matt

Ordinary Business

1) Approval of the Vestry Meeting Minutes - Motion to approve made by Herb, second by Chris, motion passed.

2) Financial Reports - Motion made to approve by Joan, second by Katie, motion passed

New and Continuing Business

1) Diocesan Nominations - Dabney is interested in a position. Fr. Paul explained the process.

2) Committee Chair recruitment - remember to encourage others to participate in committees. It might be good to consider providing child care during committee meetings, with a craft, activity and lunch. Ginger will help figure this out. Tom would like to have a list of who we are recruiting.

3) Dinka agreement review - Tom, Katie and Fr. Paul met to have a preliminary meeting. Most of the agreement is still ok. The vast majority of problems we encounter are by unsupervised youth. We must be more explicit about that portion of the contract. Deacon Katie gave us some information to add to the contract, including the ratio of adults to children for supervision. There must be consequences, including reporting violations to the diocese. We are also evaluating a fair rate for the use of our building. The only space which is unclear in the original agreement was the use of the kitchen, including rent for the use of the kitchen. We also need to include inflation of utilities and insurance in our fee. Safe church requirements need to be adhered to. Curt is willing to join the negotiations. The hope is to have the new agreement ready next month.

4) ADS accounting - Brett and the board for ADS have proposed that ADS would pay BrightBalance to do the accounting for ADS. We would still have access to financials. It would make the financials for the church more accurately reflect the numbers for the church. Also, ADS board and staff would have access to clearer information about ADS. We will need to recruit some new people for the audit committee.

5) Security Update - This was discussed during the committee report out. Our training will be specific to Ascension. We still need to figure out how to inform the entire congregation. Maybe communicate through committees. We will have to schedule an actual event during a service at some point.

Reports:

Junior Warden - Herb; Add September 7 as a workday, even though we have other events that day. Need to address the erosion areas and how to correct them.

Senior Warden - Tom; We are going to renegotiate the Sudanese contract with the church. We need to do everything we can to help them so they can be successful as a group.

Rector - Fr. Paul; he has a few comings and goings for the rest of the summer. He is going to make a video about his visit to the missions in San Antonio. He will be going to see Noah, and will be taking Emma to college.

Calendar of upcoming events: August 11 is the start of the stewardship campaign, and check At-A-Glance

People to thank: Suzan F for organizing the reception for Perry Lyons' memorial, Kerry and Laurel for providing the cups and napkins for the memorial

Next month's devotional: Joan

Next month's offering team: Steve and Ginger

Closing Prayer