

**The Church of the Ascension  
Minutes of the Vestry  
May 17, 2016 Meeting**

**Present:** Rev. Stewart Tabb, Bill Willey, Nancy Long, Michael Murphy, Jane Hedgecock, Sam Webster, Susan Meredith, Mark Strickland, and Anne Doyle.

**I. Welcome:** Rev. Stewart Tabb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Nancy Long led the opening devotion. Stewart introduced Charles Robinson, Canon for Transition Ministries and Clergy Development, who was in attendance to facilitate the vestry's *Mutual Ministry Review*. Mr. Robinson explained that the *Review's* purpose was to have a conversation both about what is going well and what is going not so well at Ascension.

**II. Discussion of the *Mutual Ministry Review* Survey:** The formal Diocesan survey had previously been distributed to and completed by vestry members. Mr. Robinson led a discussion of the survey's questions and the vestry's aggregate responses. Many strengths were identified, particularly in the areas of pastoral care, fellowship, and buildings and grounds. Concerns were expressed by the vestry and echoed in Episcopal Churches nationwide over the drop in attendance and the increasing age of parishioners. The concern is that there are not enough new, younger individuals and families coming along to assume parish responsibilities. A question arose regarding the awareness of leadership development programs in the diocese. Stewart briefly discussed the higher level, servant leadership training that was conducted in a Greensboro, NC parish. Mr. Robinson concluded the *Review* and Stewart thanked the vestry for their participation in this helpful process.

**III. Register:** The minutes of the April 17, 2016 meeting were approved. Anne is to send them to Nellwyn for posting.

**IV. Senior Warden Report:** Nancy reported that the annual meeting would be held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> during the Sunday school hour. She expressed her gratitude and pleasure in having served with the members of the vestry.

**V. Junior Warden Report:** Bill Willey gave an update of the electrical work to be performed during the month of May. He presented a request by the Riverpoint Civic League to meet in the church lounge between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on the following dates: 9/21/16, 11/16/16, 1/18/17, 3/15/17, and 5/17/17. The vestry approved the request, pending confirmation by Nellwyn that the appointed dates and times are available, and that the facilities are left clean by the Civic League.

**VI. Clergy Report:** Stewart expressed thanks for the service of outgoing vestry members Jane Hedgecock, Doug Thompson, and Nancy Long. She noted that the slate of incoming vestry members willing to serve included Courtney Wheeler, Suzi Montagna and Donna Killmon.

Stewart also expressed that her door is open to vestry and parishioners; she is receptive to candid feedback.

**VII. Treasurer's Report:** Ascension is in search of another bookkeeper. Any referrals for this part-time (15-20 hours/week) position would be most welcome.

**VIII. Vestry Task Group Reports:**

1. Communications and Web – Bill reported that Suzanne Tate and he met with Bob Postle regarding website improvements and updates. Anne Doyle also mentioned that the task group would apply for a diocesan communications grant in order to increase the effectiveness of its web platform through training programs.
2. Building and Grounds – The Building and Grounds Committee would like to purchase a table cart to move tables around the church. The motion to purchase a table cart passed. Bill also mentioned that no written agreement exists between the day school and the church regarding the day school facility. Bill suggested he would like to discuss further the writing of an agreement with Bob Motley.

**IX. Schedule/Devotions:** Nancy led the closing devotion. The next vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

**X: Subsequent Notes from the Vestry Retreat, June 3-4:** The meeting began with a prayer. With the rotation of Senior Warder Nancy Long off of the vestry, members unanimously approved the service of Sam Webster as Senior Warden, and Bill Willey to remain as Junior Warden. The vestry also unanimously approved the removal of two pews from the front of the church to allow for more engaging space and flexibility for children's programs, music and choir offerings, and inviting the participation of people with disabilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Doyle