

**The Church of the Ascension  
Minutes of the Vestry  
December 20, 2016 Meeting**

**Present:** Rev. Stewart Tabb, Rector, Michael Murphy, Sam Webster, Susan Meredith, Courtney Wheeler, and Anne Doyle.

**I. Opening Devotion:** Rev. Stewart Tabb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Susan Meredith led the opening devotion, Psalm 139. Discussion ensued.

**II. Register:** The minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting were reviewed. Minutes were amended to include Courtney Wheeler's presence. The minutes will be approved during the January 2017 meeting.

**III. Treasurer's Report:** Michael Murphy gave the treasurer's report prepared by Jane Webster. He noted that November's actual pledges of \$23,015 were below the monthly budget (\$28,000) by \$4,985. This brought the year-to-date pledge balance to \$300,328, or \$ 8,672 below the year-to-date pledge budget of \$309,000. Year-to-date expenses are below budget, thus improving the year-to-date difference between income and expenses to \$41,087. There were no significant fund changes during November. Investments for the month of November were increases by \$6,812.

Three Budget Items: Sam Webster stated that three items need to be approved by the Vestry by the end of 2016: the official resolution regarding the rector's housing allowance, staff salaries for year 2017, and the 2017 pledge to the diocese. The following motions were made and approved by email vote:

1. Rector's Housing Allowance- each year, for IRS purposes, clergy must have an official resolution, attached, regarding the housing allowance. The Vestry passed this motion unanimously.
2. Staff Salaries: The Finance Committee recommended increasing the staff budget by 1%. The Vestry approved this motion unanimously.
3. Pledge to the Diocese: A \$30,000 pledge to the diocese was proposed for the 2017 budget. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion continued regarding other cuts made to the 2017 budget. It was acknowledged that janitorial service costs have doubled from 2014. Roof leaks are another budget unknown. It was also noted that the Warfield bequest has come in, but has not been reflected in the financial report. Finally, the day school was reported to be on a more stable financial footing.

Stewart asked if the Laundry Love ministry might be incorporated into the Outreach Fund Balance. A question was raised whether Ascension would have enough volunteers to be involved in this ministry. It was suggested to put in a sign-up sheet. The Soaps N Suds location at Wards Corner has been arranged as the location for the ministry. The process will be to purchase \$15 laundry cards, with volunteers being on hand with supplies and the gift cards. Ascension would be in for \$3,000. The Treasurer said that the Laundry Love ministry could be supported. It might be the right ministry for the Alternative Young Adults (25-45).

#### **IV. Wardens' Report:**

Sam Webster reported that the day school is doing well, having taken guidance from a licensing general review. The Vestry is distributing Christmas gifts to all of the staff. He recommended Ascension develop an inventory of the outside groups currently using church facilities. In addition, Sam agreed to develop a hold harmless agreement that organizations would sign in order to be able to use church facilities.

**V. Clergy Report:** Stewart reminded that the Christmas service will be at 10:00 pm. The Christmas pageant will be at 4:30pm. All agreed that the Lessons and Carols service on December 18<sup>th</sup> and Christmas dinner following the service were wonderful.

Stewart gave a report on stewardship. She noted that there are a few outstanding pledges. Vestry members have been assigned to call for these pledges.

Stewart thanked the Vestry for their service. A sheep has been given in their honor for Heifer International. Staff are getting a goat. Fellowship is getting a flock of chickens. Sam thanked Stewart on behalf of the Vestry.

**VI. Schedule:** The next Vestry meeting will be held Wednesday, January 18, 2017.

**VII. Closing Devotions:** Susan Meredith led the closing devotion.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Doyle