



July 12, 2020

EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the ATONEMENT - VESTRY MEETING MINUTES	
Time:	Sunday, July 12, 2020, 1:02 - 2:54 pm
Location:	Home: Video Conference
Present:	Mtr. Erika Takacs (Rector); Margaret Sullivan (Sr. Warden); Greg Bradley (Jr. Warden); Natalie Archie; David Beil; Steven Britt; Marian DeBerry; Aron Dunlap; Bill Hancox Barbara Newman; Daniel Polley; Michael Trumbold (Treasurer); Jim Hawkes (Clerk)
Absent:	Will Cronenwett
Guests:	
Next Meeting:	Sunday, August 9, 2020, 1:00 pm - Home: Video Conference

Margaret Sullivan (Sr. Warden) called meeting to order at 1:02 pm, followed with opening prayer led by Mother Erika. Erika welcomed Natalie Archie to her first Vestry meeting at Atonement. Margaret asked the Vestry for a **Motion** to appoint Natalie as a six month member of the Vestry. **Motion made. Seconded. Motion passed.**

1. Check-in: Margaret addressed - This week's e-blast included a message to "Listen ... Listening, true listening, can be a holy posture that enables us to see Christ in our neighbors and in the world." Margaret asked people to share what they have heard as they listened.
 2. Old Business: Vestry member replacement – addressed above.
 3. Treasurer's Report: Mike Trumbold presented - Mike presented the first half year financial review, including June's statements of financial position and activity. Overall, everything was relatively normal, considering the pandemic changes during the first half. One key loss pointed out was Holy week was considerably down over previous years, since much of that giving is during regularly scheduled events on site, which of course were unable to happen this year. However, there was still a positive upswing in the market which provided Atonement with some income earned interest, along with the mineral rights and PPP income, as well as no flower expenses while the church services were online. Collection plate offerings are still negligible, but are partially offset by increases in online income, resulting in an overall acceptable balance. It was asked if folks are aware that online offerings are subject to processing fees, whereas, checks are not - Erika to follow-up. So far, all monthly bills have been paid. **Motion** made to receive the June 2020 Treasurer's Report (on file). **Seconded. Motion passed.**
- 1:30 pm
4. Review of June Vestry Meetings Minutes: Margaret called for any questions on the Minutes. **Motion** made to approve Minutes of June 14, 2020. **Seconded.** Absent of objections with spelling correction, **Motion passed.**
 5. Reports: The following were submitted: the Rector's Report – Mother Erika (brief highlights below); updates on the Church by-laws, budget process, and endowment, along with a copy of the "Greenlining Project" document - all on file. Mother Erika commented on the Finance Guild (FG), in that they make financial recommendations for Atonement, and that the Vestry needs to approve them. She suggested that the Vestry should also provide more guidance to the FG, and Vestry should set up their own recommendations (as an example, based on the Annual Meeting feedback on parishioner's top three priorities: 1. Outreach; 2. Parish Life; 3. Worship). Feedback from the group included, not a lot of wiggle-room in the budget for expenses, and questions over Atonement priorities and whether or not things have changed due to the pandemic. Margaret mentioned the possibility of an additional parish meeting in Atonement to address these needs/changes – TBD. Leaders of each area need to have input for their needed budgets, such that they can be made available to the FG.
- 1:45 pm
6. Rector's Report: Mother Erika discussed the online survey for people's responses to re-entering the church, with over 180 responses, and close to an even distribution amongst the questions. Some consideration has been given to holding mass at noon midweek. Emphasis is being placed on creating a "Guild of Greeters" (separate from ushers) to help with guiding and ensuring safe practices are met as people enter the church sanctuary (Building & Grounds [B&G] to be involved). Also mentioned was that the Annual Convention will be held virtually online this year, with a vote for the new Bishop to be held September 12, 2020. They are still working on a plan on how to meet the candidates – TBD. Also, Atonement's parking lot attendant has left, and currently a new candidate is under consideration.



7. Action / Decision / Discussion Items:

- a. Building & Grounds: Mtr. Erika updated the Vestry on the fan replacement/repairs in the sanctuary – it will require the use of scaffolding to be in place for at least a week; currently, under current conditions of excessive heat, it has been recommended that the work be postponed until the cooler fall; also mentioned was that the air conditioning is not working properly. Mtr. Erika mentioned that in January, there was an agreement made to use a portion of the endowment – it was stated that we still have a great deal of building repairs/ work that need to be carried out, such as window repairs in the rectory, leaks to be fixed, etc., and that maybe Atonement should get to work on these now – looking for Vestry input. Atonement’s contractor is investigating other problem areas. The general consensus from the Vestry was in favor of proceeding with the repairs. Also mentioned was that Linda Clough has agreed to join the B&G Committee.
- b. Church Re-entry: Mother Erika briefly discussed the re-entry process and its progress, and looking to Mother Jackie for advice. Currently looking to August 2 as the first gathering for a single Low Mass without music to start. It will require using the remainder of July to train ushers and greeters on the new requirements to keep the members safe and ensure current State and City mandated guidelines are followed (Margaret and Mike to coordinate). Also looking to the last Saturday in July to have an “open house” to get new ideas of best ways to handle Atonement’s re-entering process, all of which is predicated on what happens by State and City in the next few weeks – Margaret looking for volunteers. Also, a question was raised on lectures needing additional guidance and coordination with this new effort to re-enter the church – TBD.

2:05 pm

Comments made as to what to call this new Mass, since it will not be a traditional “9:00 Mass”, such as “8:00 Mass at 9:00” or start the mass at an off-hour time such as 8:45 or 9:15 to ensure differentiation from normal - it’s all about parishioners expectations of what they may experience - TBD. There are still lots of questions on more specifics, such as directional tape marks on the floor, keeping track of people coming and going, etc. Margaret mentioned that calls to parishioners could include some of these new details, so that they become more aware of what to expect.

- c. Lease: Margaret mentioned the lease of the basement apartment of the Rectory is up for renewal, and asking the Vestry for their comments, concerns (currently 4 tenants with 1 perpetual occupant over a period of several years) - it was agreed not to raise the rent this year.
- d. Greenlining Project: Mother Erika reviewed a handout presented to the Vestry entitled, “Greenlining Project”, sponsored by All Saints in coordination with a nonprofit organization, United Power for Action and Justice. It involves creation of affordable housing in an abandoned area of North Lawndale. All Saints is supporting this project and asking Atonement if they would be willing to contribute - a way of creating opportunities to help social injustice. This would not be a fund raiser, but rather another way to involve our current outreach program. Mtr. Erika was basically asking the Vestry on their thoughts/input on such a project. Questions from the floor included, does it get its members involved in “sweat equity”, similar to Habitat Humanity, and if someone from All Saints or the project itself could come out and give a more detailed presentation? Mtr. Erika to follow-up with additional information.
- e. Mutual Ministry Review: Margaret addressed – She briefly discussed the review process that was conducted last year at this time of Mother Erika’s first year at Atonement (for new Vestry members to be aware). A similar but more simplified review process (i.e., not involving the Diocese) is being proposed for this two year review, and asking for the Vestry’s input. The general consensus of the Vestry approved, but advised more detail of the process to be provided for newer members – further detail TBD next Vestry meeting in August.

2:25 pm

8. Dates for Calendar: Margaret – Presently, next month’s Vestry Meeting scheduled for Sunday, August 9, 2020, 1:00 pm from home video conferencing.

Closing Prayer: Mother Erika led the closing prayer; meeting adjourned 2:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hawkes
Clerk of the Vestry