

Sunday, October 9, 2022

Episcopal Church of the Atonement Vestry Meeting Minutes

Time: Sunday, October 9, 2022, 3:22 p.m. to 4:21 p.m.
Location: In-Person at EncounterPoint, 6138 N. Kenmore Ave., Chicago
Present: Father Dan Puchalla (Interim Rector), Liz Sarnik (Warden), Dave Beil (Warden), Jennifer Ash, Richard Benson, Steve Britt, Ann Cassidy, Rufus Gonzales, Amanda Kim, Barbara Newman, Rick Velon, Mike Trumbold (Treasurer), Michael Waltz (Clerk)
Absent: Natalie Archie

Next Meeting: Sunday, November 13, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – in-person and via Zoom at Church of the Atonement.

Liz Sarnik (Warden) called the meeting to order at 3:22 p.m. immediately following the fall Vestry retreat.

Review of September Meeting Minutes: **A motion was made** (Barbara Newman) **and seconded** (Amanda Kim) to approve the minutes with the correction that the orchestra is scheduled for Christ the King. With no further discussion or questions **the motion passed** unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report:

Statement of Financial Position: Mike Trumbold reported that \$30,000 was transferred from the Money Market Account to pay for the capital projects currently being done. Originally it was thought that the capital projects would be paid from the Capital Projects CD but it was determined that those funds are to be held for a future capital campaign. He also noted that the Endowment Fund had a negative market adjustment of \$129,075 with interest income of \$589. In September total contributions to the Endowment Fund were \$101,450, with \$1,350 contributed in memory of Leo Williams and \$100,000 as a gift from a parishioner.

August Statement of Activity: We received a donation of \$3,759 to pay for the organ assessment study. Weekly offerings were over budget by \$5,924 and total revenue was over budget by \$10,407 for the month. \$16,651 for building repairs to the Church and Parish House, discussed later in these minutes, were paid with money from the 2021 Endowment Fund distribution. Gas and water bills for September reflect two months’ expenses due to problems with the transition from Midwest Bank to Old National Bank. Columbarium expenses of \$628 were for plaques, Other Diocesan Expenses of \$1,500 were for our share of the Diocesan required psychological testing of Will White, a candidate for Deacon, and \$781 was for the Search Committee coffee hours and CAT survey in September.

Third Quarter Year-To-Date Assessment: Total Revenue is over budget by more than \$18,000 primarily due to the earlier \$10,000 donation by the Hoover family for education and the \$3,759 donation for the organ assessment. Expenses YTD are over budget by more than \$45,000 but most of those expenses are covered by money from the 2021 Endowment Fund distribution and special contributions.

Mike informed the members that the Finance Guild has started working on the 2023 budget.

A motion was made (Rick Velon) **and seconded** (Richard Benson) to receive the financials. With no further discussion or questions **the motion passed** unanimously.

Reports:

Wardens' Report: Prior to the meeting Liz Sarnik and Dave Beil provided the members with an update on various topics. They reported that we are prioritizing exterior work on the buildings while weather permits. The roof repairs are complete, the back door from the alley has been replaced and the frame is being rebuilt. The sump pump replacement and rectory repairs will be done in colder months.

Two options to replace the current exterior lighting with LED technology were evaluated. It was decided to use dimmable fixtures to avoid making the lighting too bright. The warmer look of the current bulbs is not available with the new technology.

The website has been refreshed rather than completely changed. It includes updated information and a calendar feature that will list everything going on at Atonement. New photos will be added soon. The Wardens thanked Matt Rodgers for his work on this and Father Dan for keeping it updated.

Our Outreach Coordinator, Jeni Eklund, is off to a good start. She has worked with Father to create a 30/60/90-day plan to make expectations clear and set her up for success.

Outreach: The Guild provided a written report of its September meeting. Working Groups were created for core ministries including Care for Real (Deacon Charles and Daniel Burke), Care For Friends (Liz Sarnik and Charles Stewart), Chiapas Project (Charles Stewart), Refugee One (Phebe Tinker), and Sarah's Circle (Peg Tomaszek-Witry). The groups will prepare short descriptions of the ministries, including volunteer needs and contact information, which will be given to Jeni Eklund to create a table to promote the outreach ministries. The Guild will place a bin in the church for donations for the migrants being bussed to Chicago from Texas. Mike Trumbold was asked to create a donation line on the website for those who wish to give money for this effort.

Building Maintenance Needs: Dave Beil reported that the Buildings and Property Guild and S-4 (Sustainable Solutions for Sacred Sites) have joined forces in looking at needs for our buildings since their efforts to maintain and repair our properties and determine how they can best be used in the future overlap. One of the first initiatives is to determine the technology upgrades needed for the parish house to help better facilitate meetings, including Vestry and adult formation. Matt Rodgers prepared an estimate for two mobile carts with televisions, computers, and cameras for the first and second floors (estimated cost \$1,567), a large wall-mounted screen and support equipment for Montgomery Hall (estimated cost \$956), and a large wall-mounted screen for the hallway outside of Montgomery Hall to provide visual updates of church events and announcements (estimated cost of \$569). After considerable discussion **a motion was made** (Ann Cassidy) **and seconded** (Rufus Gonzales) to approve the two mobile carts to be paid for from the Education Fund, and the large screen for Montgomery Hall to be paid for from the Communications Fund. With no further discussion or questions **the motion passed** unanimously.

Dave also explained that the groups have been looking at replacing the ramp to the church that is in the north lawn because it is badly deteriorated and doesn't meet current code requirements. A new ramp is being considered for the south side of the Church to allow entrance more directly to the parish hall; the current position requires those attending meetings in the parish hall to cross through the Church. After a meeting with BauerLatoza Studio a proposal was sent this week for plans and renderings for four different ramp options at a cost of \$7,750. Action was deferred to a later meeting.

Dates for Calendar: Next Vestry Meeting – November 13 at 1:00 p.m.
Episcopal Charities Gala – October 14
Anglo-Catholicism Study Day – October 15
Evensong – October 19
Celebration of Dia de los Muertos, Montgomery Hall – October 29
All Souls Day Mass – November 2
All Saints Sunday – November 6

Following a prayer by Father Dan the meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Waltz
Clerk of the Vestry