



August 9, 2020

EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the ATONEMENT - VESTRY MEETING MINUTES	
Time:	Sunday, August 9, 2020, 1:03 - 2:40 pm
Location:	Home: Video Conference
Present:	Mtr. Erika Takacs (Rector); Margaret Sullivan (Sr. Warden); Greg Bradley (Jr. Warden); Natalie Archie; David Beil; Steven Britt; Will Cronenwett; Marian DeBerry; Bill Hancox; Barbara Newman; Daniel Polley; Michael Trumbold (Treasurer); Jim Hawkes (Clerk)
Absent:	Aron Dunlap
Guests:	Greenlining Team Members at 2:00pm
Next Meeting:	Sunday, September 13, 2020, 1:00 pm - Home: Video Conference

Margaret Sullivan (Sr. Warden) called meeting to order at 1:03 pm, followed with opening prayer led by Mother Erika.

1. Check-in: Margaret addressed - This week was an open discussion of news and updates from Vestry members.
2. Review of July Vestry Meetings Minutes: Margaret called for any questions on the Minutes. **Motion** made to approve Minutes of July 12, 2020. **Seconded**. Absent of objections with spelling correction, **Motion passed**.
3. Reports: The following were submitted: the Rector's Report - Mother Erika (brief highlights below); Children's Ministry - Aron Dunlap; Outreach - Wayne Mitchell & Russ Rossi; and Endowment - Peg Tomaszek – all reports on file.
4. Rector's Report: Mother Erika discussed guidance and the re-entering of the church last and this week with a team of newly trained ushers (for pandemic safety protocols) and 30-40 people attending the 9:00 service – also mentioning on-line survey results on "how things were going". Determination on how things will progress after a few more weeks, by September's Vestry meeting TBD – perhaps opening an additional mid-week service; whether or not to provide masks; any additional scheduling times; etc. For tracking purposes, Mike prints a registered list of signed-up attendees Sunday mornings – perhaps some confusion could have occurred for those that thought were signed up, but signed up too late, so couldn't be confirmed? – to be checked.

Margaret commented on open house Saturday – people were happy to see what was taking place for precautions, but still may not come to a regular service. Having an open time for people to come in and pray would be nice to have, but would also require someone to be present at all times (professional staff).

Mtr. Erika commented on visits to the columbarium, still to be restricted due to ventilation issues in a confined space, and best to remain as a special request to a priest to maximize individual's safety (one at a time). Also commented on Building & Grounds [B&G] - Dave Albin (Atonement contractor) repaired some leaks in the church roof since the last meeting, and work on window repairs in rectory will start next week. Question still rises over whether or not repairs or complete window replacement would be better, but because of the huge cost of total replacement, it is way out of reach for the current budget at this time. Fan repair to start in fall with cooler weather, along with any other identifiable needs on upper level work while scaffolding is in place; looking at improvements in church garden with possible signage for "Pet Memorial Garden"? Also mentioned that Dave Beil will be the new chair of the B&G Guild, and looking for ideas from the Vestry; Atonement now has a new parking attendant; art camp was a small group this year, but went well. She also thanked all those helping with preparation of the reopening of the church.

Concern was raised about those parishioners that have not shown up to church either via online or in-house, and how to reach out to them, and whether there should be some sort of support group formed? Mtr. Erika said it deserves more discussion and she would look into that.

5. Action / Decision / Discussion Items:

- a. Church Re-entry: Discussed above – always keeping safety of parishioners in mind.



- b. Mutual Ministries Review: Bill Hancox addressed – For the benefit of the newer Vestry members, he discussed the team review process that was conducted last year at this time for Mother Erika's first year at Atonement. He presented a more simplified less formal review process to be used this year review. More details / discussion points of what is working well and what needs improvement to come to the next Vestry meeting, and results to be reviewed at October's meeting.

1:45 pm

- c. Bylaws: Will Cronenwett addressed – He briefly gave an overview of the process followed by the committee involved in developing bylaws specific for Atonement, and ensuring no conflict of interest with the Chicago Diocese Canons (which they provided a good review of the draft). A copy was distributed to the Vestry for review, and hopefully any further discussion will be finalized by next September's Vestry meeting. Once the vestry has approved the by-laws, the intent is to share them with the parish and have a special parish meeting in November where they can be approved. Margaret mentioned it may be worth setting up some time on a Saturday morning for the Vestry to meet and have any further needed discussion.

- d. Filling Positions: Still looking for a treasurer and assistant treasurer.

- e. Gala / Outreach Appeal: Greg Bradley addressed – With the cancellation of this year's gala due to the pandemic, Atonement is looking for ideas on how to help raise funds to replace that which was lost. Some incentive is needed to encourage donations, other than just straight out ask for money. Ideas mentioned were matching funds, some sort of gift such as face masks with Episcopal logo, t-shirts, Atonement coffee mugs, stained glass art prints, etc. – anything that would provide some sort of "thank you" – ideas TBD.

6. Treasurer's Report: Mike Trumbold presented - Mike presented July's statements of financial position and activity. Money is OK at moment – three estates closed, so a good increase to the Endowment, in addition to income earned interest. Also parking is getting back to normal. He commented that there has been an increase in cost for janitorial and computer supplies (e.g., Zoom conferencing) with the new way Atonement needs to handle "pandemic life", and this will need to be reflected in next year's budget. Still, all monthly bills have been paid. **Motion** made to receive the July 2020 Treasurer's Report (on file). **Seconded. Motion passed.**

2:06 pm

This concluded the main part of the business meeting at 2:06, before outside groups joined in.

7. Old Business: Greenlining Project – As a follow-up to the last Vestry meeting, an outside group came to further discuss and listen in on the Greenlining project. Margaret introduced a group of people that joined in Vestry's Zoom meeting, including Wayne Mitchell from Atonement's outreach program and our Deacon intern, Andrea Billhardt. The discussion was led by Fr. Andrew from All Saints Church. He discussed a project to revitalize a Lawndale community by raising money to build homes, starting from a single model, with the eventual hope that it would lead to the redevelopment and building up to 250 homes in the community. He is reaching out to the surrounding community organizations with a plea for help to move this dream to reality. They are expecting an October ground breaking for the model home with the expectations of the exterior being finished before winter. Mother Erika thanked the group for their presentation, and that group left the meeting.

2:38 pm

Mtr. Erika followed up with a summary of the groups' presentation as being a long range project with great potential, and something for the Vestry to consider in terms of involvement in community outreach events.

8. Dates for Calendar: Margaret – Presently, next month's Vestry Meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 13, 2020, 1:00 pm from home video conferencing.

Closing Prayer: Mother Erika led the closing prayer; meeting adjourned 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Hawkes*  
Clerk of the Vestry