



February 9, 2020

EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the ATONEMENT - VESTRY MEETING MINUTES	
Time:	Sunday, February 9, 2020, 1:00 - 2:32pm
Location:	Elizabethan Room
Present:	Mtr. Erika Takacs (Rector); Margaret Sullivan (Sr. Warden); Greg Bradley (Jr. Warden); David Beil; Victor Browne; Will Cronenwett; Marian DeBerry; Aron Dunlap; Bill Hancox; Barbara Newman; Daniel Polley; Michael Trumbold (Treasurer); Jim Hawkes (Clerk)
Absent:	Steven Britt
Guests:	
Next Meeting:	Sunday, March 8, 2020, 1:00 pm, Elizabethan Room

Margaret Sullivan (Sr. Warden) called meeting to order at 1:00, followed with opening prayer led by Mother Erika.

1. Check-in: Margaret introduced - welcoming new members at their first Vestry meeting, everyone was asked to share their reasons for accepting to join the Vestry. Since Steven was unable to attend, Margaret read his heart-felt message.
2. Review of January Vestry Meeting Minutes: Margaret called for any questions on the Minutes. **Motion** made by Greg to approve Minutes of January 12, 2020. **Seconded** by Daniel. **Motion passed.** Since members had not a chance to review the January e-mail vote, approval was postponed until the next meeting.
3. Reports: Submitted were the Rector's Report – Mother Erika (highlights below); Outreach Report - Wayne Mitchell; and updates from the Endowment Committee on policies and from the By-Laws Committee - all on file. Margaret discussed the process of handling reports sent out for Vestry review before the meeting. She also reviewed the background (from previous minutes) on the upcoming Chi-Town Jazz Festival, with Atonement being the operational arm and facilitator for this group for the first time this year. Festival will run from March 7-9 at various jazz venues throughout the city.
4. Rector's Report: Mother Erika mentioned to new members her reports are sent out to the Vestry to read in advance, and that she would give highlights of important points during the meetings with questions/discussion. She briefly mentioned the Vestry retreat to be held March 28th, 9:30 - 3:30 for strategic work – more info coming.

Annual Meeting - Mtr. Erika briefly discussed outcome from meeting – Overall, people are looking for transparency in how the church conducts its business; at this very same time, our parish has been trying to do exactly that, but it is an ongoing process as Atonement is writing up bylaws to accommodate such issues. For example, an article of procedure for putting together a slate for convention delegates, as well as setting up conversations between delegates and the congregation is currently being drafted.

Office - Personnel annual reviews are now being conducted on a regular basis – all to be kept confidential and to follow legal and Episcopal Diocesan practices. Will be reestablishing positions as personnel change to better meet the needs of the church and staff.

ACS Technologies database ("Realm") – easier to use software program for connecting/consolidation of church, administration, accounting, and community, allowing parishioners easier access to their personal records; Vestry to be a test group to give feedback on pros and cons before rolling out. Vestry to receive a test link in coming week. This should also provide an opportunity for a Parish Directory to be continually updated and available.

Next Vestry meeting will be March 8th, and since the April Vestry meeting falls on April 12th (Easter Sunday), it will be cancelled. However, because the upcoming retreat (Mar 28) usually substitutes for a regularly scheduled Vestry meeting, the question arose whether or not to schedule another Vestry meeting. (The next official meeting would not occur until May 10th, (just before the May 15th Gala, and the pending issue surrounding convention delegate discussion timing) – TBD. Decision to be made at next Executive Committee Meeting.



Ministry Fair – Last November’s fair was a positive event – even resulted in a new Vestry member. Planning March 1st, Sunday at 1:00 to have a meeting with ministry leads – agenda to be sent out by Margaret.

Filling positions – Looking for candidates to fill some leadership roles, including Building & Grounds Guild and Parish Life Guild. Two new leads have volunteered for Endowment Guild - Peg Tomaszek-Witry and Finance Guild – Tim Miller. Vestry requested to send email with suggestions of names to Executive Committee. Erika made some further comments on B&G – to have meeting with current members for discussion on outside firm to help prepare analysis of building’s needs. As part of Parish Life, also looking for scheduler for coffee hour.

5. Action / Decision / Discussion Items:

- a. Annual Meeting: Margaret addressed – Mtr. Erika covered most of the details (above). Asking for Vestry for comments on the meeting – preparing bylaws will help address some of the issues. Mtr. Erika also highlighted some of the audience’s concerns on racial diversity at Atonement. A comment was made that the vestry does in fact, represent a kind of diversity; Mtr. Erika agreed with this and also reiterated that the comments at the annual meeting were particularly about race and that this is something to which our parish leadership should be attentive.
- b. Margaret mentioned importance of nametags for Vestry members to help parishioners to identify people if any questions. She also mentioned that pictures of the Vestry members will be posted on the bulletin board to make them more recognizable to the public as well as updating bios on the website – send in photos as needed.
- c. Simple Soup Suppers coming up (March 6, 13, 20; April 3) - Vestry given a choice of times to participate – Vestry decided on March 13th, Friday night at 6:00 (Victor, Daniel and Marian to assist – others welcome).

6. Old Business: Margaret mentioned CCD training coming up this summer; she briefly reviewed its purpose for the new members, and that Atonement is looking for a couple of volunteers to attend this year - additional info coming.

7. Treasurer’s Report: Mike Trumbold presented.

- a. Mike reviewed the process of presenting financial reports at Vestry meetings, by showing a bank account statement and operations activities report. He explained that the VANCO line item was for online payments and introduced Vestry basket collection to new members – proceeds to be used for special occasions, such as gifts for departing Senior Wardens.
- b. Final Stewardship Update: Atonement is currently below what was budgeted, but despite some losses, we have 52 new pledging units. Also commented on some regular attendees that are not currently pledging, some of which give regularly. Past history has shown that Atonement may still have some additional pledgers, as there have always been late comers.
- c. January Financial Report: Mike reviewed January’s financial report: Income was good for January, partly due to the Hoover Family donation and larger donations in building use resulting in a positive net for the month. Although music was over budget this month, the brass choir for January 26th service was donated, so ended OK. Further comments were made that although this year’s budget ended up balanced due to current flexibility, future months may have issues after bylaws are written which may reduce flexibility. **Motion** made by Bill to receive the January 2020 Treasurer’s Report (on file). **Seconded** by Greg. **Motion passed.**

8. Dates for Calendar: Mtr. Erika mentioned Bishop’s visit on March 25 and asking Vestry if they would want to meet either as a group at 5:00pm or wait until reception and have individual conversations – the consensus was to wait until the reception due to time constraints; also planning gift? Other dates to hold include Vestry retreat March 28, 9:30-3:30, and Gala on May 15 at 6:00pm.

9. Closing Prayer: Mother Erika led the closing prayer; meeting adjourned 2:32.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hawkes
Clerk of the Vestry