



October 18, 2020

EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the ATONEMENT - VESTRY MEETING MINUTES*	
Time:	<b>Sunday, October 11, 2020, 1:02 - 2:47 pm*</b>
Location:	<b>Home: Video Conference</b>
Present:	Mtr. Erika Takacs (Rector); Margaret Sullivan (Sr. Warden); Greg Bradley (Jr. Warden); Natalie Archie; David Beil; Steven Britt; Will Cronenwett; Marian DeBerry; Aron Dunlap; Bill Hancox; Barbara Newman; Daniel Polley; Michael Trumbold (Treasurer); Jim Hawkes (Clerk)
*Addendum:	E-mail Vestry Vote – October 18, 2020
Guests:	
Next Meeting:	<b>Sunday, November 8, 2020, 1:00 pm - Home: Video Conference</b>

Greg Bradley (Jr. Warden) officially called meeting to order at 1:02 pm, followed with opening prayer led by Mother Erika.

1. Check-in: Greg introduced – As part of the theme for Stewardship, topic surrounded what has been essential to you this past week - open commentary from Vestry members.
2. Review of September Vestry Meetings Minutes: Greg called for any questions on the Minutes and asked Clerk for any changes; said changes mentioned. **Motion** made to approve Minutes of September 13, 2020. **Seconded**. Absent of objections, **Motion passed**.

1:10 pm

3. Mutual Ministries Review: Bill Hancox thanked the Vestry for their prompt, complete, and thoughtful responses to the MMR online questionnaire sent out, previously mentioned at the last Vestry meeting, and summarized the results for the five main points singled out from last year’s review that needed attention. Most had significant improvement except for concerns of music, which unfortunately this year was greatly affected by the pandemic with major changes to Atonement’s services. The focus for this year was placed on three main points, 1. vision (overall mapping of the future for Atonement), 2. leadership (identifying skill sets and training for future positions), and 3. engagement (parish and community interaction). Some questions and discussion with the newer Vestry members on clarification on some of the points that were less familiar to them (Bill and Marian addressed).

1:27 pm

4. Treasurer’s Report: Mike Trumbold presented September’s statements of financial position and activity and quarterly report. As in previous years, September was a slow month. Lost Endowment interest this past month due to a slow market. In anticipation of this year’s Stewardship campaign, a “giving” email will be sent out. Current Columbarium CD matures in October, so there was discussion on how to handle at the meeting. Interest rates are low right now. The finance committee recommended that the CD be renewed for a 24 month period. Discussion ensued. **Motion** was made to renew the Columbarium CD for 24 months. **Seconded**. Discussion. **Motion passed**.

Mike presented year end projections and presented a preliminary rough draft of a 2021 budget to give a heads up to Vestry members on what Atonement may be up against for the next year, in light of all the pandemic issues of 2020. He mentioned that in the past, budget planning for the coming year has been predicated on the current year’s budget, but due to the changes incurred during the pandemic, a different approach may need to be taken this time around. More will be known following the Stewardship campaign.

Mtr. Erika expressed concerns over even when the pandemic ends, it may not automatically bring back all the parishioners – may need to restructure budget to reflect changes; budget cuts may be needed with emphasis put in different areas (e.g., more emphasis on parish life and effective communications needed; extending outreach in different directions [such as, Steven’s Ministry pastoral care]; reimagining the music program [real vs. ideal]; etc.).

All monthly bills have been paid. **Motion** made to receive the September 2020 Treasurer’s Report (on file). **Seconded. Motion passed**.

2:00 pm

5. Reports: Greg asked for any comments on submitted reports: Adult Formation (Daniel Polley commented briefly with a welcome reminder of Saturday meetings at 10:00 am and planning for an Advent series, organized by Sophia Twaddell) and Outreach (Wayne Mitchell – Greg mentioned that Sarah’s Circle meal was donated this month) - reports on file.



6. Rector's Report: Mother Erika wanted to thank all those reaching out and connecting to people with phone calls, and she presented highlights from her report (on file). Stewardship meetings have been occurring regularly over the past weeks with an official start date being October 25<sup>th</sup>, using social media. She mentioned a fund raising effort by hosting a Zoom New Year's party for all ages, under discussion with Peg, Greg, and Margaret, and hopefully an actual gala sometime in the fall of 2021. She mentioned the slate of candidates for Bishop looked very impressive for Chicago, with a series of Candidate Conversations beginning in November. Mtr. Erika also mentioned being invited by Bishop Lee to be the Dean of the Chicago North deanery, following approval at the diocesan convention in November. Reminders to the Vestry: 1. Put bishop candidate conversations on calendar; 2. Pray for Atonement's stewardship season and plan to attend Mass regularly during that month; and 3. Make sure to have special liturgies (e.g., All Souls' Day) on calendar.

7. Action / Decision / Discussion Items:

2:20 pm

a. By-laws: Will addressed – After a great deal of work by the Bylaws Committee, Vestry review and Diocese feedback, Atonement Bylaws are ready for final Vestry approval. A process is being developed to introduce these bylaws to the parish and obtain their approval (i.e., posting bylaws on Atonement's website, logistics of how to submit questions / answers, voting procedures, Zoom meeting, etc. **Motion** was made for Vestry approval to accept a final draft of the bylaws to be presented to the parish for their review. **Seconded**. Discussion. **Motion passed**.

b. Buildings & Properties: Mtr. Erika presented a list of building needs with some estimates for costs, including concrete repair work (front steps and front of parking lot); sanctuary fan replacement, and ramp replacement. A great deal of discussion ensued over the various projects. Both the ramp replacement and fan replacement were coming out much higher in cost than expected, such that approval of the costs was narrowed down to that of only the concrete repair of approximately \$15,000 at this time, until further information can be provided. **Motion** was made to approve expenditure of \$15,000 for concrete repairs. **Seconded**. Discussion. **Motion passed**.

2:34 pm

Mtr. Erika presented an opportunity for the church kitchen to be used by a professional baker as a means for Atonement to earn some revenue; she wanted to get the Vestry input on whether or not it was worth pursuing; basically the vender would be responsible for all the leg work, insurance, etc. Will look further into it – TBD. Also mentioned was Mtr. Erika is looking into new video equipment for the church, since it looks like virtual services will be continuing for the near future.

c. Parish Video for Bishop: Mtr. Erika also asked if any volunteers would like to make a video to send to the Diocese – Dave said he would try to recruit and Mother Erika would handle.

d. Filling Positions: Margaret addressed – three people have expressed interest in the position of Treasurer – candidate to be presented last day of Stewardship. Greg to send out email. Mtr. Erika still looking for names for other positions – to be further discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

e. Treasures of Atonement: Margaret addressed - Beginning in 2018, the vestry began recognizing "Treasures of Atonement" - parishioners of Atonement whose long tenure and faithful service have been a gift to the parish for many years. Vestry is being asked to come up with some names of candidates for this year.

8. Dates for Calendar: Next month's Vestry Meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 8, 2020, 1:00 pm from home video conferencing. Evensong scheduled for Oct 21<sup>st</sup> and Nov 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Closing Prayer: Mother Erika led the closing prayer; meeting adjourned 2:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jim Hawkes*  
*Clerk of the Vestry*

\* Addendum:

October 18, 2020, 5:06pm – Email vote registered for approval of **Motion** to fund replacement of fans in sanctuary of Atonement (on file), previously discussed during the Vestry meeting, but postponed pending further gathering of information. **Motion passed**.