

**St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Minutes of Vestry Meeting, As Approved
Wednesday, April 20, 2022**

Officers Present: Geoffrey Hoare (Rector), Trevor (Ted) Swett (Senior Warden), Stephanie Cucuru (Junior Warden), Hollis McLaughlin (Treasurer) and Carol A. Aschenbrener (Secretary).

Members Present: Michele Armitage, Carol A. Aschenbrener, Erin Bowers, Ted Cage, Rachel Colson, Matt Cunningham, Lisa Garnett, Tom Gustafson, Megan King,

Members Absent: Brian Glosch, Suzy Mink, Karina Rodriguez.

Youth Representatives: Alex Mello

Diocesan Delegate: Candice Brown

Staff Members Present: Emily Griffin, Yoimel González Hernández

Others: Robin Rudd (WSA), Tom Roth (Chancellor)

Call to Order: Rector Geoffrey Hoare called the meeting to order via Zoom conference call at 6:34 PM and led the vestry in prayer.

Opening Meditation: Junior Warden Stephanie Cucuru offered a reflection on the spirituality in “Ted Lasso,” a highly rated series during the pandemic seasons of physical distancing. Ostensibly about a folksy American football coach hired to coach English football, the show emphasizes and illustrates the necessary work of community building. She cited an article – “Ted Lasso is not about what you think” – that describes some of Ted’s actions as examples of caritas (selfless love). Pointing to the need to rebuild community at St. Alban’s after the pain of pandemic, Stephanie suggested that acts of caritas might help us forge an even stronger community, pointing to Children’s Chapel and Youth Formation as examples.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting: Upon motion seconded, the Vestry unanimously approved the minutes of its regularly scheduled meeting held on March 16, 2022.

[Vestry Action 2022.4-1]

Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Hollis McLoughlin referred the vestry to Finance Director Doug Dykstra’s summary, noting that actual income and expenses for the first three months of 2022 are on target with budget. He noted that the draw from endowment is listed by month in the financial report, the actual one-time 6% draw will not be taken until December. The budget includes \$10,000 for rector transition, which may be low.

The most significant issue at present is the capital campaign. To date, we have received contributions of \$1,505,629 against pledges of \$2,012,934, a 75% fulfillment rate. Expenses paid for capital projects to date represent 56% of the projected total expenditures of \$2,314,505 and 85% of the capital contributions received. The plan is to cover the remaining expenses with pledges and endowment draw, the latter in two tranches, including the previously approved \$300,000 that will be drawn from the Schwab cash account. At this point, the amount needed to cover the gap between capital contributions/pledges and actual expenditures is expected to be less than anticipated.

As discussed in the Executive Committee, the Director of Finance will prepare for the May vestry meeting a specific timetable for completion of the 2021 audit that will ensure that the audit is closed before September 2022.

Upon motion seconded, the Treasurer's Report was adopted unanimously.

[Vestry Action 2022.4-2]

Report and Discussion of Rising Generations. Diocesan Delegate Candice Brown shared a segment from the "Rising Generations" presentation at the 2022 Diocesan Convention and posed several questions for the vestry's reflection. The "Rising Generations" initiative highlights issues of importance to young adults (18-34), a group critical to parish vitality.

The four young adults from the Washington diocese interviewed in the video identified reasons for becoming active members of an Episcopal parish, including the following:

- "They meet us where we are and focus on our needs," including fears about the future
- A church of "progressive Christianity" where we are encouraged to ask questions
- "Open and welcoming" with a diverse congregation and clergy
- "Treating the Bible as a spiritual guidebook, not as weapon or law"
- "A church where we did not have to leave any part of ourselves at the door"
- "Both/and tradition that creates space for diversity of background and belief"
- "The church loves us"
- "A place to use my skills for others"

Discussion of the implications of Rising Generations and potential actions will be on the agenda for a future vestry meeting.

Report on Pastoral Care: Vestry member Carol Aschenbrener provided a written report focusing on two lay volunteer efforts: WeCare and Stephen Ministry. During the pandemic, WeCare had to focus on meeting needs that did not require in-person contact. With easing of restrictions, they are beginning to resume a broader range of activities, including providing meals, rides, accompanying parishioners to medical appointments, visiting the sick and homebound. Similarly, during the pandemic Stephen Ministers focused on maintaining relationships with existing care-receivers. Once it seems safe, Stephen Ministers will begin to make short-term visits to sick and grieving parishioners in collaboration with WeCare network. Co-leader Claire Buchan Parker will be relocating in January, 2023 so a new co-leader needs to be identified and trained to join Carol Aschenbrener.

Rector's Report: Geoffrey referred vestry members to his written report.

Senior Warden's Report: Senior Warden Ted Swett provided a comprehensive report on current and upcoming activities related to the Rector Search.

Junior Warden's Report: Junior Warden Stephanie Cucuru provided a detailed update on the capital improvement projects, noting that a contract for sprinkler system study has been signed. New water problems have been identified at Satterlee and water problems in the Columbarium persist. Stephanie will attend a day-long, in-person class at St. Columba's on welcoming and newcomer processes on May 21 and invited other interested vestry members to join her.

Report on the CEEP Conference: Vestry member Matthew Cunningham attended the three-day conference of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes, a group focused on stewardship issues. (The group dropped its "endowed" requirement and is now known as the Episcopal Parish Network – EPN.) Matt reported that one of the best workshops focused on "supporting and sustaining the Church of the 21st century." He was encouraged that St. Alban's already incorporates many of the best practices shared during that session.

Highlights from other reports: There were additional reports from the three associate rectors with highlights as follows:

Associate Rector Emily Griffin noted that attendance at Children's Chapel has been increasing and that 5 baptisms will be recorded for the months of April and May.

Associate Rector Yoimel González Hernández described continuing preparations for the youth pilgrimage. Youth will participate in a focus group as part of the rector search process.

Associate Rector James Quigley reminded the vestry that four distinguished guests will participate in a three-session Zoom series on "Life on the Ground in the Holy Land." Because of the time differences involved, the sessions will be held at 8AM on June 2, 9 and 16.

After closing prayers, the vestry went into executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol A. Aschenbrener, Secretary