

**St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Minutes of Vestry Meeting, As Approved
Wednesday, January 19, 2022**

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

Members Present: Carol A. Aschenbrener, Paul Brewster, Rachel Colson, Matt Cunningham, Stephanie Curcuro, Lisa Garnett, Megan King, Suzy Mink, Susan Morris, Josepha Musabyemariya Nelson, Karina Rodriguez, and Dudley Winthrop.

Youth Representatives: Hana Keenan and Annie McLean

Diocesan Delegate: Candice Brown

Staff Members Present: Emily Griffin, Yoimel González Hernández, and Jim Quigley (Associate Rectors), Doug Dykstra (Director of Finance) and Matthew Steynor (Director of Music)

Others: Robin Rudd (WSA)

Call to Order: Rector Geoffrey Hoare called the meeting to order via Zoom conference call at 6:33 PM and led the vestry in prayer.

Opening Meditation: Posed against a Zoom backdrop of the Von Trapp family children singing the “farewell” song from The Sound of Music movie, Ken Patterson offered his final meditation as Senior Warden. He opened by citing three articles he had read recently about the state of the world. One article – “How can I be OK when the world is terrible?” – included three suggestions that evoked his time on the vestry: focus on things you can control; find others who care about the same things you do; and make space for gratitude. Ken also pointed to two of his core beliefs that guided his service: “God loves us all – no exceptions;” and “We are put on this earth to do good.” He noted that his service on the vestry was important in keeping his “glass half full” during the turmoil of the last three years. In closing, he invited vestry members to share what keeps them smiling and on even keel and a number did so.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting: Upon motion seconded, the Vestry unanimously approved the minutes of its regularly scheduled meeting held on December 15, 2021

[Vestry Action 2022.1-1]

The vestry also approved minutes of the special meeting called on January 12, 2022.

[Vestry Action 2022.1-2]

In preparation for the upcoming annual meeting, the minutes of the January 2021 annual meeting were unanimously approved.

[Vestry Action 2022.1-3]

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Hollis McLoughlin referred the vestry to the clear and complete year-end financial report submitted by Director of Finance Doug Dykstra and highlighted several points. Most importantly, we ended the year with a break-even operating budget for 2021 and remain in an “extremely strong” financial position. He noted that usual policy is to have Lincoln Financial immediately cash any donated stocks. However, due to some bureaucratic issues with Lincoln, the proceeds from the sale of \$150,000 in stocks were not received until January and will be available for the 2022 budget. Because of the pandemic, we were unable to distribute all the monies allocated for outreach so the Rector determined that the \$22,000 unspent will be added to the allocation for Christian Social Ministries in 2022 budget.

Hollis reported that work on the 2019 and 2020 audits is nearing completion and will be submitted to the vestry after review by the Finance Committee.

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

[Vestry Action 2022.1-4]

Hollis also reported that work is well underway to complete a 2022 budget for presentation at a future vestry meeting. As in previous years, he presented a motion from the Finance Committee for the interim period until a budget is approved. This is common practice as results of the annual appeal are usually not complete until late December or January.

The vestry unanimously approved the proposed continuing resolution authorizing spending levels authorized for fiscal year 2021 operations be extended into fiscal year 2022 until such time as the vestry approves an operating budget for fiscal year 2022.

[Vestry Action 2022.1-5]

Annual Appeal Report: Vestry member Lisa Garnett gave her final report on the annual appeal for 2022. As noted in Doug Dykstra's financial report, the campaign has reached 93% of its monetary goal at \$1,232,729 and 79% of its participation goal (227 pledges versus goal of 286). The number of pledging households is down 12% from 2021 at this point. However, the total amount pledged was up 4% from last year. Lisa commended the generosity of parishioners and thanked all who worked on the campaign. Vestry members expressed appreciation for her efforts in these challenging times. Matt Cunningham will lead the 2023 campaign.

Rector's Report: Rector Geoffrey Hoare referred the vestry to his written report and added two items. Project Manager Gary Baker is working to change building codes, with separate locks for the staff corridor. The church archives will be moved into the now dry basement of Satterlee when construction is completed.

Senior Warden's Report: Senior Warden Ken Patterson made brief comments on the upcoming election process and urged vestry members to remind people about the proposed changes to the bylaws. The new free-standing altars likely will not be completed by the annual meeting but will be dedicated soon after. Parishioners will soon be notified of the process for updating the church directory on the Realm platform.

Junior Warden's Report: Junior Warden Ted Swett provided a detailed written report on the various capital projects in process. The next project will be an expert analysis of fire safety, including feasibility and cost estimate of installing a sprinkler system.

Other Reports: There were a number of additional written reports, with highlights as follows.

Associate Rector Emily Griffin noted that plans are underway the Ash Wednesday, Lenten and Holy Week liturgies.

Associate Rector Jim Quigley shared two highlights of the Christmas season: a small group of parishioners caroling to homebound parishioners and his opportunity to construct a new manger for the Children's Pageant.

Associate Rector Yoimel González Hernández reported that a personal project about "Photography as a Spiritual Practice" will be combined with classes for senior youth; participants will share photographs that reflect God's presence among them.

Comments from outgoing vestry members: Vestry members Ken Patterson, Paul Brewster, Susan Morris, Josepha Musabyemariya, and Dudley Winthrop and Youth Representative Annie McLean shared brief comments on their vestry service. These were touching messages of gratitude, personal growth, and appreciation of the opportunity to serve.

After closing prayers, the vestry went into executive session at 8:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol A. Aschenbrener, Secretary