

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Minutes of Vestry Meeting, As Approved
Wednesday, June 15, 2022

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

Members Present: Michele Armitage, Carol A. Aschenbrener, Erin Bowers, Ted Cage, Rachel Colson, Matt Cunningham, Lisa Garnett, Brian Glosch, Tom Gustafson, Gloria Manzo, Suzy Mink

Youth Representatives Present: Hana Keenan

Members Absent: Megan King

Youth Representatives Absent: Alex Mello

Diocesan Delegate: Candice Brown

Staff Members Present: Yoimel González Hernández and James Quigley

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

Call to Order: Rector Geoffrey Hoare called the meeting to order via Zoom conference call at 6:36 PM and led the vestry in prayer.

Opening Meditation: Vestry member Matthew Cunningham opened his meditation by reminding the vestry of the Jim Carrey movie “Yes Man” in which Carrey attends a self-help seminar and learns to unleash the power of “yes.” Eventually, he learns from the consequences of using this power that too much “yes” is not good. Matt then related a story about a night out with friends after a Pride celebration. Though tired, he said “yes” to the outing and it was at the bar they visited that he first met his wife Audrey. He suggested that saying “yes” can signal commitment and lead to the development of trust in relationships. He invited the vestry to join him in thinking of ways that we can help potential donors realize that saying “yes” to the annual appeal can open up new opportunities.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting: Upon motion seconded, the Vestry unanimously approved the minutes of its regularly scheduled meeting held on May 11, 2022.

[Vestry Action 2022.6-1]

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Hollis McLaughlin noted that pledge income was down for the month of May but on track for the first five months of 2022. Expenses are also tracking with

budget. The endowment, which grew significantly during the previous 2 years is down with recent market volatility. He and the Finance Committee monitor investments closely and advise staying the course at this point. Cash is down somewhat as expected because of capital expenses coming due. Hollis referred the vestry to Finance Director Doug Dykstra's lengthy report for more details.

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

[Vestry Action 2022.6-2]

Security Update: In his capacity as Head Usher, Hollis McLoughlin shared highlights from the written security report circulated in advance of the meeting. At the suggestion of Associate Rectors Griffin and Quigley, Andy Solberg, Director of the Washington National Cathedral Police conducted a briefing on safety and emergency response. Solberg emphasized the importance of "presence and awareness" and reviewed safety tips and response readiness for medical emergency and unexpected events. Hollis noted that the Cathedral Police have been quite responsive to calls from St. Alban's. Another briefing will be held in September for people in Satterlee Hall. Some vestry members expressed interest in attending.

Senior Warden's Report: Senior Warden Ted Swett updated the vestry on preparations for the rector search and facilitated vestry discussion of the draft Parish Vitality Assessment and OTM Parish Profile documents circulated in advance of the meeting. Revisions will be made in response to vestry input before submitting the documents to Canon Anne-Marie Jeffery. Ted emphasized the importance of critical vestry conversation about the kind of person we seek for the position of rector.

Third Report and Discussion on Rising Generations: Diocesan Delegate Candice Brown briefly reviewed key points from the previous discussions of the Rising Generations video. She reported that a group of six, including two young adults are studying Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church to get ideas on improving connection with young adults. The GIFT group is planning a gathering for young adults at St. Alban's on June 26.

Rector's Report: Rector Geoffrey Hoare referred to his detailed written report, with a few highlights. The recent "Life on the Ground in the Holy Land" was well received in the parish and beyond. Geoffrey noted: "It is not changing any hearts or minds for those who are invested in the politics of the Middle East. It is educating and informing those of us who are not and might be interested in a pilgrimage in Lent of 2023." He thanked Megan King, Kiki McLean and Marybeth Albright for their efforts in planning an engaging parish celebration for the reopening of Satterlee Hall on September 16.

Junior Warden's Report: Junior Warden Stephanie Cucuru provided a detail written update on buildings and grounds improvements. She recently attended a diocesan workshop – Invite

Welcome Connect – about ways that parishes can be more attractive and welcoming and shared the related workbook with the vestry.

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

Associate Rector Yoimel González Hernández reported that five of our youth were confirmed on May 14, including two from the National Cathedral congregation who participate in our youth program. The 2022 pilgrimage for the Senior Class has been postponed, probably until 2023. Yoimel represented St. Alban's at the June 4 diaconal ordination of our former seminarian Omar Rodriguez La O and Omar's husband.

Associate Rector James Quigley noted that the Wednesday Morning Bible Study group recently concluded its tenth consecutive program year. Four parishioners were honored for completing the four years of Education for Ministry. Jim has asked the WeCare Coordinating Team to consider ways to do an inventory on pastoral relationships/needs with parishioners. He also mentioned two goals of the Stephen Ministry – to increase parishioners' awareness and participation in the program and to train more lay ministry "staff" to meet needs for ongoing spiritual support.

Associate Rector Emily Griffin remains on sabbatical until mid-August.

After closing prayers, the vestry went into executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM.

Interim Resolution: As is customary, the vestry did not meet in July but there was one matter of necessary business communicated for a vote via email on July 13, 2022.

The Budget and Finance committee recommends and the Executive Committee supports the following resolution: The vestry authorizes the Treasurer to engage Hozik & Company, P.L.C. to conduct an audit of St. Alban's accounts for 2021.

Resolution was approved by a majority of the vestry, with three members not responding via email.

[Vestry Action: 7-1]

Respectfully submitted,
Carol A. Aschenbrener, Secretary