

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

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

Officers Absent: Hollis McLoughlin (Treasurer)

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

Members Absent: Gloria Manzo

Youth Representatives Absent: Hana Keenan, Alex Mello

Diocesan Delegate: None

Staff Members Present: Associate Rectors Emily Griffin, Yoimel González Hernández and Jim Quigley

Others: Robin Rudd (WSA), Tom Roth (Chancellor), and Noelle Sotille

Call to Order: Associate Rector Emily Griffin called the meeting to order via Zoom conference call at 6:00 PM and led the vestry in prayer.

Opening Meditation: Vestry member Suzy Mink shared a reflection on the lasting impact that the motto from her Episcopal high school has had on her daily life. The guidance came from Paul's letter to the Church at Phillip 4:8-9: "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." These "whatevers" captured on a school coffee mug still, decades later, prompt her to reflect daily on whether she is living her life according to these qualities. She aims to lift these qualities, however manifested in her daily life, up to God. In closing, Suzy suggested the vestry ask how we, collectively, might contemplate these "whatevers" in contemporary Washington.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting: Upon motion seconded, the Vestry unanimously approved the minutes of its regularly scheduled meeting held on September 21, 2022.

[Vestry Action 2022.10-1]

Treasurer's Report: Vestry member and Finance Committee member Lisa Garnett presented the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Treasurer Hollis McLoughlin and referred the vestry to Finance Director Doug Dykstra's detailed written report. Pledge income is still on a trajectory to meet budget and parish support is up 8% over 2021. The combination of decreased number of

pledging households and some increase in expenses has put pressure on the 2022 budget. The 2021 audit is not yet ready.

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

[Vestry Action 2022.10-2]

Annual Appeal Report: Vestry member and Campaign Co-chair Matthew Cunningham reported that the 2023 Stewardship Campaign is in full swing under the theme "Be Just, Be Kind, Be Humble...and Be Generous." The goals for the campaign are to: 1) increase the number of pledging households to 260; 2) add at least 20 new pledging households this year; and 3) exceed the total amount pledged for 2022 (\$1.35M). Matt reported progress as of October 18 and urged all vestry members to complete their pledges this week.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Vestry members Rachel Colson and Lisa Garnett are finalizing membership of the committee. They encouraged the vestry to send them names of potential candidates for vestry.

Report on Worship Groups: Vestry member Erin Bowers referred the vestry to her written report, drawing attention to the small group of lay volunteers who collaborate with our clergy to produce the beautiful and inspiring worship that thrives at St. Alban's, despite the interruption by pandemic. She reported several concerns from the flower guild. Emily responded that one issue has been addressed and a miscommunication has been clarified. The third issue – accessible storage space – is a long-standing one and is not easily resolved.

Young Adults/Growing Young Report: Noelle Sotille, a lifelong parishioner, presented a written report from the small working group that spent three months examining how St. Alban's currently interacts with young adults. Their discussions were guided by Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church, a book recommended by our diocese. The group developed a series of recommendations for the clergy and vestry to consider for attracting, welcoming and engaging young adults in the St. Alban's community. The recommendations include scheduling special services, social events, spiritual outreach and meaningful projects. Noelle's presentation sparked a lively discussion among the vestry and clergy.

Associate Rector's Reports: Associate Rectors Emily Griffin and Jim Quigley briefed the vestry on additional supervisory responsibilities and leadership roles they have assumed during the absence of a permanent rector. Emily also updated the vestry on children's formation and worship and encouraged the vestry to attend a multicultural remembrance of the deceased (Ofrenda) on November 6, after the Spanish-speaking service. Jim reported recent activities in adult formation and Christian Social Ministry.

Senior Warden's Report: Senior Warden Ted Swett provided a detailed written report, reminded the vestry to submit their pledges for the annual campaign and encouraged them to attend a Spanish-speaking service.

Junior Warden's Report: Junior Warden Stephanie Cucuru provided a written update the many active buildings and grounds projects, noting that vestry member Ted Cage has assembled a team to investigate options for renovating the rectory and will report to the vestry in November.

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

Associate Rector Yoimel González Hernández noted that some of our young adults gathered for a retreat recently and are planning events for young adults for the rest of the year.

Music Director Matthew Steynor summarized music milestones in recent weeks, including re-introduction of a monthly choral mass for the 11:15 service, performance by the choristers on International Chorister Day and monthly performances by the handbell choir.

After closing prayers led by Associate Rector Jim Quigley, the vestry went into executive session.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol A. Aschenbrener, Secretary