

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Minutes of Vestry Meeting (AS APPROVED)
Wednesday, August 21, 2019
Room 301, Satterlee Hall

Officers Present: Geoffrey Hoare (Rector), Ken Patterson (Senior Warden), and Trevor (Ted) Swett (Secretary). Lucy Fraser Cage (Junior Warden) and Hollis McLoughlin (Treasurer) were unable to attend.

Members Present: Michelle Bond, Paul Brewster, Leo Coco, Rachel Colson, Glenn Davis, Barbara Manard, Jane Schubert, and Ted Swett. Also present was Youth Representative Woodfen McLean. Adrienne Allison, Walker Carter, Josepha Musabyemariya, and Dudley Winthrop were absent, as was Youth Representative Corinna Gilmore.

Staff Members Present: Jim Quigley, Emily Griffin, and Yoimel González Hernández (Associate Rectors); Douglas Dykstra (Director of Finance).

Others Present: Robin Rudd (Chair, WSA).

Call to Order and Introductory Reflection: After noting the presence of a quorum, the Rector called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 p.m. and delivered an opening prayer. Leo Coco provided a personal reflection.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Dykstra presented the monthly financial report. It reflected low pledge income for July after unusually high receipts in June, a balance of \$4.9 million in the Endowment, a balance of \$673,893 in the Reserve Fund, and an initial deposit of \$124,192 in the recently created investment account at Schwab.

Upon motion seconded, the Vestry adopted the financial report as submitted.

[Vestry Action 2019.8-1]

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion seconded, the Vestry approved the minutes of its June 26, 2019 meeting (there having been no Vestry meeting in July).

[Vestry Action 2019.8-2]

Diocesan Strategic Plan: Emily Griffin led a discussion of the draft mission statement ("Vision 2025") of the Episcopal Dioceses of Washington that has been drawn up as part of the diocesan strategic planning process and was circulated to Vestry members in advance of the meeting. The statement addresses three major goals: (i) inspiring personal spiritual growth, (ii) revitalizing churches, and (iii) promoting ministries of service and justice. Vestry members suggested that language be added to the draft to underscore the importance of children/youth ministries and of outreach to, and inclusion

of, gay and lesbian persons and individuals of unconventional gender identities. It was also suggested that certain language in the draft be revised to emphasize that the church and those it serves are all “we,” rather than “we” and “they.”

Rector’s Report: Geoffrey Hoare gave a short summary of his written report, which focused on reflections concerning the recently concluded J2A pilgrimage to Greece. (This and other reports were to be redistributed to Vestry members, as the same failed to reach some members in advance, due to malfunction of the parish’s email system.) Commencing in September, Mr. Hoare will take over responsibility for following up with newcomers, thus freeing Emily Griffin to devote increased time and attention to the Spanish-language service and related matters.

Senior Warden’s Report: Ken Patterson touched on certain aspects of his written report, including the development of emergency preparedness plans and resources for the parish, and his intention to contact Vestry members individually for ideas furthering the growth of the congregation and the cadre of parish volunteers. He also posed for ongoing reflection the question of whether or not a perceived lack of church-led activism on issues of societal concern accounts in part for nationwide attrition in church membership.

Associate Clergy Reports: Jim Quigley and Emily Griffin each commented briefly on their respective written reports. Mr. Quigley spoke mainly of a “path” that the parish clergy have developed for integrating newcomers into the faith community. It begins with an Enquirers class, then leads to a one-year Bible study course, and culminates in a ten-week program to be called “GIFT” (Growing in Faith Together). This program will get underway in late September.

Ms. Griffin updated the Vestry on the 2019/2020 program year for Children’s Formation (including the introduction of seven new Sunday School teachers), and underscored the need to recruit a music leader for the Spanish service. She also summarized the composition and goals of the Planning Committee that has been created to steer the parish’s efforts to integrate fully the English-language and Spanish-language constituents of the parish.

Closing Prayer and Executive Session: Upon motion seconded, the Vestry voted to enter into executive session following closing prayers led by the Rector.

[Vestry Action 2019.8-3]

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Trevor W. Swett III
Secretary