

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Minutes of Vestry Meeting (AS APPROVED)
Wednesday, September 18, 2019
Room 301, Satterlee Hall

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

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

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

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 6:30 p.m. and delivered an opening prayer. Walker Carter read a Collect for Stewardship.

Treasurer's Report: Hollis McLoughlin presented the monthly financial report, reflecting that income is on track to meet budget expectations, and expenses are under control. Although pledge income in August was below what was received in recent years, overall pledge income to date this year is 10% above the same point last year. The Endowment balance is down slightly at \$4.9 million, and the Reserve Fund remains steady at \$673,893. An additional \$30,000 was transferred in September to the recently created investment account at Schwab. Hollis noted that several major projects scheduled or underway, notably related to water infiltration and the HVAC system, have required withdrawal of funds from the Reserve Fund. He added that he and Mr. Dykstra are working to make information on cash reserves more transparent in the monthly financial report.

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

[Vestry Action 2019.9-1]

Approval of Minutes: Upon motion seconded, the Vestry approved the minutes of its August 21, 2019 meeting.

[Vestry Action 2019.9-2]

2020 Vestry Election Nominating Committee: Geoffrey Hoare announced that retiring Vestry members Adrienne Allison, Michele Bond (Committee Chair), Lucy Fraser Cage and Jane Schubert have been appointed to the nominating committee for the January 2020 Vestry election. Two non-Vestry members of the congregation will also serve on the committee.

2019 Annual Appeal: Walker Carter, who with Suzy Mink is leading this year's annual appeal, invited the Vestry to reflect together about the importance of giving, and our own reasons for giving to St. Alban's Church. He led off by describing the "abundance of support" his family has received from clergy and fellow parishioners since joining the parish. Numerous Vestry members then spoke of the ways St. Alban's Church is central to their lives; one noting, "Next to my immediate family, this is the most important part of my life." Another said, "I am giving from what I was given" by clergy and fellow parishioners at St. Alban's; and another that she has discovered "the joy of giving, which is a central message at our church." "This is the only place that challenges me to be a better person, where truth is told and we are challenged as individuals and as a community through amazing, revivifying experiences every Sunday," commented one. Another spoke of her gratitude that her "children have found a church home here. They think this place is home." Another noted the joy he receives from knowing that his gift to St. Alban's goes to many places, touching different needs yet channeling through a common cause. Geoffrey Hoare commented that he believes his gifts to St. Alban's support God's work, delivering "grace upon grace, even through tough situations." Online pledging for 2020 is already available, and the Vestry was encouraged to pledge before the campaign begins.

God's Work in the World: Jane Schubert summarized the social ministries and outreach which are central to St. Alban's mission, noting that these include many individual ministries to which members of the parish are committed, in addition to those sponsored by St. Alban's. Our church gives more in outreach than any other church in the diocese. An ongoing discernment by concerned parishioners since 2014 has led to greater coordination especially of WSA, feeding, education and global ministries. Jane mentioned specific examples of each, and challenged the Vestry to consider how these could be enhanced, or used as models for new ministries. The following discussion incorporated the ongoing need for focused, efficient and diversified investment of resources, as well as the central importance of relationship and connection – "not just writing a check."

Rector's Report: Geoffrey Hoare announced that the weekend of October 12-13, St. Alban's will host a workshop for Vestry and other interested parishioners to discuss where we are going as a unified community, one parish with two languages. The workshop will be led by Stephen Carlsen and Yuri Rodriguez. Mr. Carlsen was Dean and Rector, and Ms. Rodriguez is a Choir Director, at the Episcopal Cathedral in Indianapolis, where they successfully addressed much the same challenge that we face.

Senior Warden's Report: Ken Patterson thanked the Vestry for responding to his survey soliciting information and ideas about Vestry priorities and challenges. He

announced that Tricia Pinkard has agreed to be the coordinator of Parish Life this year, and that Michele Bond will be her Vestry counterpart until January. He offered special appreciation to Jim Quigley for the outstanding Ministry Fair on September 8, and to Jim and Emily Griffin for their ongoing work on the development of emergency preparedness plans and resources for the parish.

Junior Warden's Report: Lucy Fraser Cage reported that the oak tree near the Lychgate must be removed, unfortunately, because it is dying. She expects to request up to \$250,000 for necessary work in Satterlee and Nourse Halls, and discussed the related impact of that work on plantings near the buildings. Quotes are being sought to dehumidify the basement and stairwells of Satterlee, and a list of needed updates/repairs in Trenbath is in preparation. She noted that Charles Porter's report to the Vestry of projects currently in flight vividly illustrate the exceptional range and number of issues being addressed. Geoffrey Hoare observed the need for a strategic plan that identifies and prioritizes work needed on our facilities.

Video System: Dudley Winthrop raised a worship issue: the increasingly urgent need for a video system to enable overflow crowds (especially at funerals and some services) to participate from Nourse Hall. He estimated this project will cost about \$10,000, and that parishioners are needed to help with project management.

Associate Clergy Reports: Jim Quigley and Emily Griffin each commented briefly on their respective written reports. Mr. Quigley noted that the planned ten-week program (Growing in Faith Together, or GIFT) has been postponed because too few individuals signed up. Other elements of the adult spiritual education program will begin as planned late September.

Emily Griffin reported she is still searching for a music leader for the Spanish service. The Planning Committee that is steering the parish's efforts to integrate fully the English-language and Spanish-language constituents of the parish is meeting regularly and has demonstrated the desire and willingness to lead.

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 2019.9-3]

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Thoren Bond
Acting Secretary