

**St. Alban's Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of Vestry Meeting, As Approved**  
**Tuesday, July 14, 2020**

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

**Members Present:** Carol A. Aschenbrener, Paul Brewster, Walker Carter, Leo Coco, Rachel Colson, Glenn Davis, Lisa Garnett, Megan King, Barbara Manard, Josepha Musabyemariya Nelson, Dudley Winthrop. **Youth representatives:** Annie McLean, Ruthie Rhodes.

**Members not Present:** Karina Rodriguez

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

**Others Present:** Robin Rudd (WSA ) and Heather Sondel (Diocesan Delegate).

**Call to Order:** The Rector called the meeting to order via Zoom conference call at approximately 6:30 PM and led the vestry in prayer.

**Opening Meditation:** Vestry member Rachel Colson shared a reflection from her experiences during a year of service in Kenya, at age 23, as part of the Episcopal Young Adult Service Corps. She worked with an organization that was loosely affiliated with the Anglican Church. Rachel often recalls how awestruck she was by how welcomed and at home she quickly felt there. As with many volunteers, she went with the intention of teaching people but ended up learning from them as well. She shared several examples of the generosity of people who gave her gifts out of what little they had. This experience often comes to mind as epitomizing her life and God's call not only to give but also to receive. In this time of physical distancing, she has become aware of God in new places, even while mourning the ability to go out freely and be present with others. In response, others on the vestry expressed their nostalgia for some of the mundane things of daily life that are not possible at this time. The vestry concluded that Rachel's personal question, "What should we be doing in the world now?" was one for all of us in the church.

**Mission Discussion: A Proposal to Open the Opportunity Shop:** Robin Rudd and Susan Morris prepared a thoughtful and detailed proposal that had been shared with the Vestry Executive Committee earlier and distributed to the Vestry in advance of the meeting. Robin explained that the proposal is intended to be a "strategic pre-opening" that would allow volunteers to: 1) sort and distribute the large backlog of donations that were dropped off after the church buildings closed; 2) prepare the shop for re-opening when that is possible; and 3) allow some of the volunteers to re-engage with this meaningful work. They would like to be able to move some merchandise in order to generate revenue to support the social outreach ministries but realize that this cannot happen until conditions are safe. There were a number of expressions of support for the dedication of Robin and Susan and volunteers and sympathy with their stated goals. Concerns were expressed about feasibility of doing this safely at this time. Although the

number of cases of coronavirus infection had fallen for 14 consecutive days by the time of this meeting, the city had not met conditions for Stage III re-opening. One major consideration is that the proposal would not conform to current diocesan guidelines about when church buildings can be re-opened for any purpose. After extended discussion of pros and cons and possible variations, the Rector invited Robin and Susan to draft a revised proposal for sorting the backlog of donations, using no more than 3 volunteers for no more than 2-hour shifts. He expressed willingness to discuss such a proposal with the Bishop, whose approval would be needed in order to proceed. He also noted that the vestry could re-visit the proposal monthly at its regular meetings. (Note: The number of cases of coronavirus has been increasing in the DMV since this vestry meeting.)

**Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting:** Upon motion seconded, the Vestry approved the minutes of its regularly scheduled meeting held on June 17, 2020.

**[Vestry Action 2020.6-1]**

**Stewardship Report for Annual Appeal:** Vestry members Rachel Colson and Lisa Garnett have begun planning for the annual appeal, with the intention of making 3-4 contacts with parishioners by the end of January. This may come in the form of phone calls to get personal input from parishioners and gathering of small groups via Zoom for sharing information about the congregation.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Hollis McLoughlin assured the vestry that St. Alban's financial condition remains stable, despite the drop-off the pledge income in June. This will be closely monitored to determine whether it is the usual "summer slump" or a longer-term affect associated with the pandemic. We remain on target for pledge income for the first half of 2020. Geoffrey, Hollis and Doug Dykstra are looking at a sensitivity analysis to identify trends in expenditures associated with buildings being closed, as well as expenditures that might be postponed until year end. In summary, we need to keep a close eye on pledge receipts and continue to be prudent with expenditures.

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

**[Vestry Action 2020.6-2]**

**Senior Warden's Report and Update on Re-gathering:** Senior Warden Ken Patterson distributed a grid of potential topics and proposed membership for a Regathering Task Force that will take a detailed look at the various elements that would comprise a plan for re-opening the church buildings. Membership will include clergy, staff, vestry members and officers and other parishioners. Chairs of the various subgroups made invite additional members as appropriate. Once the Task Force begins its work, there will be opportunities to both share information with parishioners and receive input.

**Rector's Report:** In addition to the continued planning and preparing for worship, contacting elderly and vulnerable parishioners and other regular pastoral responsibilities, Rector Geoffrey Hoare reported that he has begun work with Doug and Charles on revising the 2021 budget and planning for contingencies. He and the clergy are discussing how we might respond to systemic

racism as a parish. He also noted that Tom Gustafson and Ted Swett are reviewing the employee handbook.

**Junior Warden's Report:** Junior Warden Ted Swett updated the vestry on the status of the various repairs and improvements to church buildings. Some projects are moving slowly because of delays beyond our control but the office renovations and water mitigation at Nourse are near completion. He and Lucy Fraser Cage have consulted with Cathedral staff and arborist about tree pruning later in the year. Bob Witten is investigating potential improvements to signage on the west side of Satterlee and Nourse that would permit display of 2-3 changeable banners.

**Other Reports:** A number of other reports were received by the vestry. Highlights from those reports include the following:

- Associate Rector Yoimel González Hernández reported that plans are underway for Youth Ministry in 2020-21. He is recruiting new youth leaders and is getting ready to implement a six-week “Dismantling Racism Youth Curriculum” that was organized by the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing. Yoimel and Emily implemented a new initiative “Cantar a Dios en el Verano”, sharing one Spanish language song per day one week in July. This initiative is another opportunity for worship and spirituality at home and will equip the Spanish-speaking congregation with a broader repertoire of songs when regathering is safe. Hats off to Yoimel for organizing and hosting the online Talent Show on St. Alban’s Day!
- Associate Rector Jim Quigley informed the vestry that we have fulfilled our 2020 commitment to the St. Savior’s School in Zarqa and Hope and Resurrection School in Atiaba, South Sudan, with a \$19,000 contribution to each. He and vestry member Josepha Musabyemariya will share news of the two schools once they have completed calls to both. Jim will be shepherding a pilot group in the Episcopal Church’s *Sacred Ground* curriculum on racism. His update on pastoral care activities noted a recent funeral, baptism, and two committals in the columbarium. At some point, there will be opportunities for remembrance of recently deceased parishioners Barbara Yeomans, David Johnson and Sallie Lewis.

After closing prayers, the vestry went into executive session at 8:06 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Aschenbrener  
Secretary