

**St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Minutes of Vestry Meeting, As Approved
Wednesday, September 21, 2022**

Officers Present: Geoffrey Hoare (Rector), Trevor (Ted) Swett (Senior Warden), Stephanie Cucuru (Junior Warden), and Hollis McLoughlin (Treasurer).

Members Present: Erin Bowers, Ted Cage, Rachel Colson, Matt Cunningham, Brian Glosch, Tom Gustafson, Megan King, Gloria Manzo, Suzy Mink, Michele Armitage, Erin Bowers, Matt Cunningham

Youth Representatives Present: Alex Mello, Hana Keenan

Members Absent: Carol A. Aschenbrener and Lisa Garnett

Diocesan Delegates Present: Candice Brown, Mary Beth Albright, Amie Vandersluis

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

Staff Member Absent: Doug Dykstra

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

Call to Order: Rector Geoffrey Hoare called the meeting to order via Zoom conference call at 6:32PM and led the Vestry in prayer.

Opening Meditation: Vestry member Tom Gustafson spoke about how he reconciles faith and science. As the child of a religious mother and scientist father, he always wondered about why things are true when we think we know them. He spoke about Wilfred Cantwell Smith, the comparative religion scholar, who distinguished between *belief that* (a statement of fact, which can be disproved by science) and *belief in* (a statement of faith). Tom shared his belief in the goodness of creation. And he's assured of the strength and reliability of his belief because he understands all the reasons why creation might not be good, but his belief in the goodness of creation was always there—it came before words. And so words cannot be used to talk him out of it. It's not a statement of fact, but a statement of faith.

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting: Upon motion seconded, the Vestry unanimously approved the minutes of its regularly scheduled meeting held on August 17, 2022.

[Vestry Action 2022.9-1]

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Hollis McLaughlin presented the monthly report compiled by Finance Director Doug Dykstra. As reported, he noted that St. Alban's is on track for both pledge payments and expenses to bring the calendar year to a close at, or very close to, budget.

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

[Vestry Action 2022.9-2]

The Vestry unanimously approved a Letter of Agreement for Yoimel González Hernández after noting a typographical error to be corrected.

[Vestry Action 2022.9-3]

Report of the Stewardship Committee: Vestry member Matt Cunningham provided an update on plans for the 2023 annual appeal. The campaign, which officially kicks off on October 5th, will use the theme recommended by the diocese: "Be Just. Be Kind. Be Humble. Be Generous." Matt also shared several goals, including to increase pledging households to 260 (including 20 new pledging households) and increase total pledged amount to \$1.35 million. Letters with pledge cards will be mailed on October 3rd. Matt encouraged Vestry members to pledge as soon as possible and to consider making a short video clip to be used during the annual campaign.

Report on Parish Life: Vestry member Megan King updated the Vestry on parish life activities, including a successful party on September 16th to celebrate the reopening of Satterlee Hall and Geoffrey's ministry with St. Alban's. The party was organized by Megan, Mary Beth Albright and Kiki McLean. Laura Ingersoll is organizing the farewell reception for Geoffrey and Sage, which will take place in Trenbath between services on Sunday, September 25th. Megan provided an update on initial conversations related to Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas dinner. Ultimately, the Vestry will need to consider whether to reopen a community-wide Christmas dinner.

Finally, she urged Vestry members to help identify additional people to help with parish life. Currently, parish life activities are organized by a small team of parishioners including Mary Beth Albright, Phoebe Jane Winthrop, Laura Ingersoll, Kiki McLean, and Megan King.

Report on Children's and Youth Formation: Vestry member Brian Glosch reported on programs for children, which are fully staffed and have returned to pre-pandemic schedules. Youth programs are also up and running, although more Youth Ministers are needed.

Children's Chapel has returned to weekly every Sunday at 9:00am in Nourse Hall. Children's Chapel leaders include the following: Kiki McLean, Amanda Gilman, Mary Beth Albright, Noell Sottile, Bill Edgar, Rachel Freytag, Julie Scott, Alex Stavitsky-Zeineddin, Sarah Minukas, Matt Cloninger-West, Amie Vandersluis, Phoebe Jane Winthrop, Brian and Samantha Glosch, Joseph Kaz, Deborah Potter.

Sunday School/Godly Play classes meet every Sunday at 10:15am in the newly renovated Satterlee Hall: 2s &3s, PreK to 1st, 2nd to 3rd, and 4th to 6th. Sunday School Leaders include the following: Lucy Cage, Sue Coco, Laura Dinkelacker, Monte Hoover, Emily Blake, Julie Clements-Smith, Francoise LeGall, Pete and Carina Sather, Rachel Colson, Hana Keenan, Armis Sadri, Zoe Tron, Mirelle Warouw, Candice Brown, Tom Gustafson, David Ridenour, Anton Vanterpool.

Nursery care for children up to age 3 is available from 9:00am-11:05am on the second floor of Satterlee.

The Choristers Program for children in elementary and middle school resumed in-person rehearsals on Saturdays at 10:00am. Joseph Kaz leads the Choristers Program.

The full acolyte program has resumed. Dudley Winthrop leads training of acolytes.

Rite 13 (7th to 8th graders) and J2A (9th to 10th graders) meet at 10:15am in the newly renovated basement of Satterlee Hall. Leaders include Noell Sottile, Rachel Freytag, Samantha Glosh, and Liz Price.

The Senior Group (11th to 12th graders) meets once a month. Leaders are Amie Vandersluis and Justine Colson.

Plans are underway for two pilgrimages in 2023, the postponed trip to the South of France for the Senior Youth Group and the J2A trip.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Vestry member Rachel Colson said that at the November meeting, the committee expects to present a full slate of candidates for the January 2023 elections to fill vacancies for Vestry members and Junior Warden. Please submit ideas about good candidates for election to Lisa Garnett and Rachel Colson.

Rector's Report: Rector Geoffrey Hoare provided a written report—his last one. He noted that, in the course of his career in parish ministry, this was vestry meeting number 430.

Senior Warden's Report: Senior Warden Ted Swett provided a written report and urged Vestry members to come to the farewell party for Geoffrey and Sage Hoare on September 25th.

Junior Warden Report: Junior Warden Stephanie Curcuru provided a written report highlighting ongoing activities related to building and grounds.

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

highlights as follows:

Associate Rector Yoimel González Hernández thanked Candice Brown for her work with the group of youth adults who have been studying the book *Growing Young*. The group plans to submit a report with ideas about what St. Alban's can do to serve young adults more effectively moving forward. In October, Yoimel will present a forum on his experience at the World Council of Churches. Associate Rector Emily Griffin will do a forum about her sabbatical in October. Associate Rector Jim Quigley thanked Rector Geoffrey Hoare for his leadership.

The Vestry passed by acclamation the following resolution, which expresses gratitude to Rector Geoffrey Hoare.

RESOLUTION BY THE VESTRY OF ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH

RECITALS

Geoffrey Michael St. John Hoare came to St. Alban's Church as Priest-in-Charge on March 1, 2017, and was called as Rector on March 21, 2018.

Geoffrey has tendered his resignation as Rector of St. Alban's with a view to moving with Sage Hoare, his wife, to North Carolina and setting out there upon a new phase of life together.

The Vestry has accepted Geoffrey's resignation, albeit with regret.

Throughout his service as rector Geoffrey has addressed the needs of our parish with energy, creativity, and effectiveness, drawing upon the talents of associate clergy, lay staff, and volunteers to preserve and nourish the mutual bonds of affection among our community of faith.

In Geoffrey, St. Alban's has been blessed with a Rector of remarkable talents and accomplishments as preacher, pastor, teacher, problem-solver, supervisor, mentor, recruiter, and friend.

Geoffrey, Sage, and their daughters Ruthie and Allyson together have been a gracious and beloved presence in our parish family.

By word and example, Geoffrey has reminded all of us to "to turn toward what really matters," to "let the main thing be the main thing," and to strive to place our whole trust in God. Geoffrey leaves our parish in excellent condition to enter into the next phase of our common life.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE VESTRY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

We express to Geoffrey our deep respect and affection, as well as our very best wishes for the future. We hope that Geoffrey, Sage, Ruthie, and Allyson will cherish warm memories of their time at St. Alban's.

We ask God's continued blessings upon Geoffrey and his family as they take their leave of us.

SO RESOLVED this 21st day of September, 2022.

[Vestry Action 2022.9-4]

After closing prayers, the vestry went into executive session, without Geoffrey, to discuss the status of the search for a new rector.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Colson
Secretary Pro Tempore