

St, Albans' Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Date: 3/12/17 Location: Upper Room TIME: 1:00-3:00

MEMBERS:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ✓ <u>Rev. Erin Hensley</u> | ✓ <u>Tanya Conner</u> | ✓ <u>Claudia McKee</u> |
| ✓ <u>Gwendolyn Hustvedt</u> | ✓ <u>Yvonne Cyphers</u> | ✓ <u>Dawn Piper</u> |
| ✓ <u>Paul Veihman</u> | <u>Marcy Leonard</u> | ✓ <u>Bob Terrell</u> |
- Alexander Clark (treasurer)

Reverend Hensley shared quote and silent reflection time to open meeting.

1. *Parishioners' concerns/comments we are hearing...*

- Bookkeeping clarification: Income on bulletin insert "Total Funds" include other sources of income- more than just pledge and plate (including rentals, flowers, etc.)
- Ministry* = all of what we do (total expenses)
- Update bulletin insert to read...
Please keep in mind that income/giving and expenses are not necessarily distributed evenly throughout the year.
- Property concerns may be logged on the clipboard that is located on the magnetic bulletin board.

2. Property Water Concerns

- We don't have City of Austin Water.
- Controller circuit board in water pump (not providing enough pressure) must be fixed before "in-building" plumbing issues/problems can be addressed.

3. Minutes from last month's meeting were amended and approved.

4. RESPECT norms were reviewed and discussed.

5. Faithful Stewardship – Reverend Hensley opened discussion with Coliseum / Arena analogy in which *comparing*, and *shaming* may be present but *empathy* and *self-compassion* are most important. These will always remain present during this process. What lights our way? Our values are the lanterns that light our way. As we are entering the arena of faithful stewardship, what lanterns are you carrying with you?

- Our lists of values were listed, shared, and prioritized.
- Mutual Invitation process used to share opinions/feelings regarding "A Spirituality of Fundraising"

6. Information / Clarifying Questions

- Do we still test the water? Yes
 - *The well water is purified.*
 - *A tank in the well house was replaced.*
 - *A filter will be replaced.*
- Beeping fire alarm
 - *Fire alarm only recognizes analogue signal*
 - Alarm needs an LTE alarm cell communicator converter box.
 - Converter box is \$395. + \$79. labor
 - Vestry voted and approved purchase and installation of box.
 - We will need a regular bid for required monitoring service.

- Monthly financials were discussed
 - Will check unrestricted to make sure they are logged correctly.
 - There is a -\$150. in expenses; is this income?
 - What is a *negative expense*?
7. History of pledges were shared.
- 2017: 79 pledges = \$254,522.
 - o Since this year's Annual Meeting:
 - Addition of 5 pledges and increased pledges for +\$16,600. = \$271,122.
 - Loss of 6 pledges (mainly due to RIF) for -\$13,980. = \$257,142.
 - 2016: 91 pledges = \$291,699.
 - o Budgeted \$325,000. for pledge income figure
 - 80% of pledges paid
 - \$22,000. short
 - 2015: 110 pledges = \$455,592.38
 - o Two pledges (\$45,000. and \$18,000.) comprised large portion of total.
 - Concerns = feeling of "wait and see"...
 - o Is it due to reduction in force?
 - o Transparency?
 - Comments
 - o More parishioners are speaking up.
 - o Several years ago pledges were not discussed.
 - o Should we return to one service? *The more services you have, the more people will attend.*
 - o Pipe/Building problems along with \$99,000. pledge drops happened all at once.
 - o Average pledge = \$3,200.
8. Vestry visited *epicenter.org* to discuss overall church statistics (memberships, baptisms, etc.)
9. For 2017, our budget is more transparent.
- We will look at fundraising techniques.
 - By identifying specific "wish list" items for donors to choose, we build/show trust.
 - Individual donations ("I donate \$ for this or that.") lead to individual funding instead of funding of ministry.
 - Fundraising Brainstorming:
 - o Think big – How to "Get off the Hill"
 - o Crawfish Broil at Harley Davidson
 - o Think beyond what churches have done
 - o Write down ideas for sharing out.
10. Finance Subcommittee and Property Subcommittee will meet before next meeting to discuss items listed in agenda. Chairs will contact members to set up times for meetings.
11. Shared Lord's Prayer to adjourn the meeting.