



January 12, 2020

EPISCOPAL CHURCH of the ATONEMENT - VESTRY MEETING MINUTES	
Time:	Sunday, January 12, 2020, 1:00 pm - 3:01pm
Location:	Elizabethan Room
Present:	Mtr. Erika Takacs (Rector); Margaret Sullivan (Sr. Warden); Greg Bradley (Jr. Warden); Victor Browne; Marian Deberry; Aron Dunlap; Kent Haag; Bill Hancox; Helen Lambin; Daniel Polley; Beth Sharpe; Michael Trumbold (Treasurer); Jim Hawkes (Clerk)
Absent:	Will Cronenwett
Guests:	
Next Meeting:	Sunday, February 9, 2020, 1:00 pm, Elizabethan Room

Margaret Sullivan (Sr. Warden) called meeting to order at 1:00, followed with opening prayer led by Mother Erika.

- Check-in: Margaret introduced – With Vestry membership transitioning after this month, there were departing comments from those members leaving Vestry (Beth, Helen and Kent). Mother Erika, along with the remaining Vestry members, thanked them for their service. She showed an example of a framed print of Atonement, which will be presented to each departing member, as a token of remembrance for their service.
- Review of December Vestry Meeting Minutes: Margaret called for any questions on the Minutes. **Motion** made by Helen to approve Minutes of December 8, 2019. **Seconded** by Greg. **Motion passed.**
- Reports: Submitted were the Rector’s Report – Mother Erika (highlights below); Outreach Report - Wayne Mitchell; and commentary on the Chi-Town Jazz Festival and updates from the By-Laws Committee - all on file. Margaret also mentioned that she, Wayne Mitchell, and Chuck Elliott are working with John Moulder in organizing volunteers from Atonement and other organizations (e.g., Care For Real and All Saints Episcopal Church) to help support some of the operational details for the Chi-Town Jazz Festival (11th year). This festival has been a catalyst for raising awareness of funding nonprofits committed to Chicago-area hunger relief, including Care For Real. The event was started by John Moulder, a parishioner at Atonement. Festival will run from March 4-9 at various jazz venues throughout the city.
- Rector’s Report: Mother Erika mentioned that the three candidates (Barbara Newman, David Beil, and Steve Britt) agreed to join the Vestry and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Annual Meeting coming up January 26th with a single 10:00 mass, structured more similarly to the 9:00 mass (shorter/simpler) – reminders to be sent out. There will be a short 10 min break, allowing time to set up for the meeting in the church, organizing flip charts for post-its – we will be needing help to set up. Meeting is planned for 1 hour max, starting between 11:30-11:45am. This year will include appointing the clerk, voting for new Vestry members as well as candidates for the 2020 Diocese convention. This year will also be different in that the congregation will have more active participation for input of ideas of how they see the future for Atonement. Key topics will include 1. What aspects of Atonement are most transformative to individuals (e.g., adult formation, outreach, etc.); 2. Key focus for next year; and 3. Individual hopes and dreams for Atonement. A page of instructions will be included with the bulletin to aid folks in their participation. Vestry members (with badges) will be present to assist parishioners in this process; Vestry will also receive instructions in advance to know what to do. There will be no Sunday school this day but nursery care will be set up. Final details TBD and will be sent to Vestry members.
 Mtr. Erika also mentioned that previously there had been talk of changing the Vestry Meeting schedule, but it has been decided that it will remain on Sundays after the 11:00 mass, for the near future. Also revisited “Safe Church” training for new and current members – Aaron Leonard (admin.) to monitor. Planning to have a retreat for the new Vestry (probably the same location as last year, March or April). By-Laws Committee (Ron Fox, Will Cronenwett, Mother Erika, and Margaret Sullivan) working on first draft of the Atonement by-laws. Next steps to finalize draft, share and review draft with Vestry at next meeting (Feb 9), back to finalize with Committee, followed with a vote as a Vestry on the by-laws, and a subsequent vote at a parish meeting (TBD).



5. Treasurer's Report: Mike Trumbold presented.

- a. December Financial Report: Mike reviewed December's financial report: Account activity was good this month – budgeted for a deficit and ended with a positive. Very positive market adjustments and interest earned in the Endowment Fund. He mentioned Atonement has been able to pay all the bills each month. Although year ended with a deficit, it was lower than anticipated. **Motion** made by Helen to receive the December 2019 Treasurer's Report (on file). **Seconded. Motion passed.**
- b. Stewardship Update: Currently we have 152 pledging units, which includes 49 new pledges. Atonement may still have some additional pledges, since there are always a few late comers. However, the church is still lagging behind quite a bit short of the goal.
- c. 2020 Budget: Mike presented a draft of the 2020 budget, which was previously presented to the Financial Committee. There were a couple of options, one with a 2% cost of living increase for salaried employees and one with none. A great deal of discussion ensued over the options, both of which ended with budget deficits. It was decided to move to a 1.6% increase option (recommended 2020 COLA). Other areas of discussion included deterioration of building structure and much needed repairs (e.g., emergency boiler replacement last month). A complete analysis of Atonement's infrastructure needs to take place to assess remaining issues – looking into companies to carry out. There were also concerns expressed over where there were budget increases and where there were not (such as education and music but not outreach). The budget will be revised accordingly and resent to the Vestry to be voted on electronically by e-mail. Mike also reported on the Endowment Guild – Although no policy currently in place, it is recommended to take 3-4% of interest/principal out yearly (depending on market). Considering imminent needed building repairs, this will be needed to help cover costs. This required a Vestry vote as to how much would be taken from the Endowment Fund. **Motion** made by Kent to recommend to the Endowment Guild to move 4% from the endowment. **Seconded** by Victor. **Motion passed.** This will be presented to the Endowment Guild within the next couple of weeks. Again, it was emphasized the importance of getting by-laws in place in order to be able to make investment decisions. Erika commented on starting next year's budget earlier in the calendar year to help in larger scale decision making for 2021.
- d. At the conclusion of the Treasurer's report, Mike announced that he would be stepping down from his position at the end of this year, after 9 years. He said that he started with the plan of only 5 years, but it continued much longer. Helen echoed sentiments of the Vestry of an undying gratitude for his service over all those years,

6. Action / Decision / Discussion Items:

- a. CCD training to occur July 26 – August 1, 2020.
- b. Annual Meeting: Final details to be sent to Vestry prior to the meeting, and reminders to the parish of the change in schedule, January 26, 2020.
- c. Vestry to receive an updated 2020 budget reflecting above changes to be reviewed and voted on via e-mail.

7. Old Business: None

8. Closing Prayer: Mother Erika led the closing prayer; meeting adjourned 3:01.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hawkes
Clerk of the Vestry