

All Saints' Parish

Minutes of Vestry Meeting held on

August 23, 2016

Vestry Members Present: Steve Huber, Joe Becci, Steve Fleenor, Jean-Marc Madelon, Theresa Amy, Colleen Dodson-Baker, Brian Ide, Maggie Reid, David Van Iderstine

Staff Present: Debbie Gauer, Jennifer Hill, Elizabeth Ladizinsky, Jason Klein

Minutes Taker: David Van Iderstine

Call to Order: Senior Warden Joe Becci called the meeting to order at 7:03. He stated that the theme for the meeting was "Reconcile."

Prayer: Teresa Amy led the prayer

Study: Steve Fleenor presented a handout. He summarized the concept of the "Radical Welcome" concept for churches as articulated by The Rev. Stephanie Spellers, author of the book of the same name, and those present discussed the extent to which All Saints' Beverly Hills (ASBH) is and in some ways may not be a church that presents itself this way.

Fleenor summarized the program for the Sept. 24, 2016 "Reconcile" event, including the video welcome message featuring Episcopal Church USA Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael Curry. Presentation of the nine-minute film "Reconcile," produced by the parish, will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Dee Myers.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June meeting of the Vestry having been circulated in advance of the current meeting, a motion to approve them was made, seconded and passed. (There was no July meeting per standing practice.)

Discussion and Presentation Items: Jason Klein presented an overview of the ASBH Choir's 2017 tour to England, which he said is now seen not as a tour but rather as a pilgrimage. Scheduled for August, the choir will serve in Wells Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral and, in a first for this parish, in the Chapel Royal at the Tower of London. The tour's estimated cost is \$170,000. The intention is that the tour be self-funding. Fundraising activities will include a concert in early December, presented in coordination with PBS and a record label company. Fundraising activities will be coordinated with Debbie Gauer to avoid conflict with the annual ASBH Stewardship campaign. There will also be a spring 2017 preview concert.

Brian Ide then presented a more detailed overview of the "Reconcile" program. The post-screening discussion panel moderated by Dee Myers will comprise Quinton Peeples (the film's writer), journalist and author Todd Purdum, Fox Legal Group Executive Vice President Gary Roberts, Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, and a fifth participant not yet identified. The panel discussion will be filmed. A Question-and-Answer session will follow the panel discussion. A wine and cheese reception will follow at the Rectory. Tickets are \$10. All are urged to attend. Ide discussed the efforts to create awareness of the evening

both inside and outside the parish, externally both to public and to other parishes. Advertising for the program book will be sold.

Rector's Report: Steve Huber explained that the "Reconcile" film will serve as the lead-off for the fall 2016 Wednesday night adult-education program, "Ministry of Reconciliation," beginning Sept. 27. Beginning with a presentation on religious diversity in the United States in general and the Los Angeles area in particular, the Wednesday night series will focus each week on a particular group that people might tend to experience as "the Other," e.g., Muslims, the homeless, and the incarcerated, and how we as Christians must and can embrace all.

A second track will focus on biblical literacy. It will consist of "Bible 101," developed and presented by Senior Associate Rector Allison English and parishioner Mark Denton on Tuesday evenings beginning Sept. 20. This second track will also include a series of Sunday morning presentations by theology professor Susanna Funston, Ph.D, which will be presented in the ASBH Music Room at 11:15 beginning Sept. 25.

Debbie Gauer reported that an existing legal entity affiliated with ASBH will be retooled to eliminate its expressly chartered religious purpose. This entity will focus on delivery of social service ministry work, and its non-religious design will facilitate the receipt of contributions from external entities barred or inhibited from making donations to overtly religious entities.

Steve Huber continued that the annual process of staff evaluations is underway. He reported the deaths of some parishioners.

State of the Parish: Joe Becci informed the Vestry that four meetings had been scheduled (Sept. 11, 14, 17 and 18) for which a letter, presented at the meeting, would be sent to parishioners inviting them to attend. At those meetings, attendees would receive information regarding the ASBH Strategic Plan, the upcoming program year, an overview of current financials, and an appeal made for increased support to close the budget shortfall.

Financials: Steve Fleenor presented the financials. Joe Becci reviewed the Vestry Dashboard. Fleenor reported we have closed the books on six months at All Saints. Unfortunately, the poor financial results from last year continue. For the month of June, expenses exceeded revenue by \$68,000. On a year-to-date basis, expenses have exceeded revenue by \$235,000. Actual expenses are 2% greater than plan, some of which are timing differences. As such, our problem is not with expenses (at least as compared to budget) but rather with revenue, which is \$205,000, or 20%, off plan; however, this number is a bit misleading. In May, we transferred the "Roxbury Rent" of \$43,000 from the Reserve Account to the Operating Account because of a need for cash. This transfer was budgeted for December. So to draw meaningful conclusions as of June, that transfer should be ignored, leaving us \$248,000, or 24%, below plan. To place that number into perspective, last year through June our expenses exceeded revenue by \$145,000.

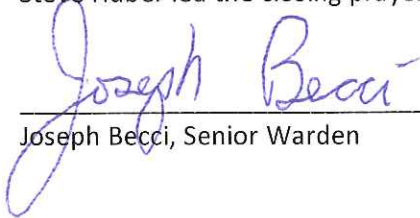
A motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made, seconded and approved.

Administration: Jennifer Hill advised that the relamping project in the main church was nearly finished. New kitchen steps have been installed. A First Impressions Reception was held at the Rectory for newcomers and to discuss how ASBH presents itself to them. In response to a question, she advised that

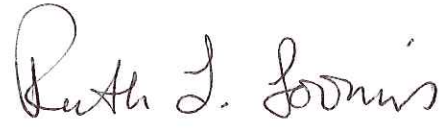
action on a proposal received from Protection One for security upgrades to the church buildings was on hold because other unplanned expenses required attention first.

Vestry Nominations: Joe Becci advised that the Vestry Nominating Committee has held its first meeting, and he invited the current Vestry to submit suggestions to fill the vacancies that will arise as three current members' terms expire early next year.

Steve Huber led the closing prayer.



Joseph Becci, Senior Warden



Ruth Loomis, Clerk