

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Annandale, VA
Special Vestry Meeting via Zoom and in Person July 11, 2023

Attendance: Father Jeff, Monique Clark, Alison Dilworth, Bill Calvert, Debbe Heiman, Adam Huston, Christie O'Connell, Chris Murphy Peck, Glen White

Not present: Father Paul, Debra Becker, Bob Ensinger, Parker Nolen, Kristi Potts

Father Jeff opened the meeting with a reflection on 1 Peter.

Approval of Minutes: The June meeting minutes were reviewed with one edit from Bill Calvert.

Motion to approve: Alison Dilworth; Second: Christie O'Connell. Motion carried.

It was noted as the minutes were approved that while the intent was to move expeditiously to address current issues in scheduling the July 11 meeting, there was concern expressed at the last-minute nature of scheduling the meeting. This was acknowledged by all.

Junior Warden/Buildings and Grounds Update: Bill provided an update on previously approved repairs. The kitchen is in the final stages of being certified by Fairfax County as a commercial kitchen. Bill is working to schedule the inspection. Fairfax County has alerted us they will no longer pick up trash for free. But will do three cans for \$39 a month through the end of September. We will now need to contract with a private trash service and rent dumpsters at approximately \$200 per month.

Pride Month, Pride Flag and Listening Sessions

The Vestry entered into a heartfelt and respectful conversation regarding the Listening Sessions and issues related to the Pride Flag. Vestry members restated our commitment to fostering a welcoming and supportive community for all even as we may disagree about which actions to take.

At their request, Glen shared comments submitted by Bob Ensinger and Parker Nolen as part of the discussion.

Among the issues discussed was the banner outside the Parish indicating "All Are Welcome. No Exceptions." Father Jeff shared that this was a long-standing wish of his to post this banner – preceding discussion of the Pride Flag. This was based on the banner in front of Christ Church of a similar nature. Although the timing was unfortunate, flying this banner was not intended as a substitute or response to not flying the Pride Flag.

As such, the Vestry members attending the meeting determined that the banner would stay in place for the time being and further action on all matters will be on hold until the end of the listening sessions.

The listening sessions have been advertised in *The Word* and will move forward. Vestry members expressed their concerns that we take great care in being open, actively listening and providing skilled facilitation to keep the potentially difficult conversations moving forward. Also,

it is just as important to articulate what we as Vestry and Clergy will do with the information – it will inform decisions on budgeting and future activities and must be shared back to the Congregation.

There was general acknowledgement that St. Albans is a special place and the intent of all present is to keep it this way for all who wish to be part of our community.

Next steps: Chris Peck and Father Jeff will research options for Facilitators with the intention of scheduling the meetings within the next two months.

Prepared by: Chris Peck, Register