

Women Clergy at Ascension

Reprint (with some editing) of a feature in the weekly parish newsletter January 23, 2019

A quorum of Wardens and Vestry members at our January meeting last night (January 22, rescheduled due to weather from last Saturday) unanimously approved the following resolution:

“Moved, that the Wardens and Vestry encourage the Rector to move ahead with integrating women priests and deacons into the sacramental life and ministry of the Church of the Ascension, and that the Rector timely communicate with the Vestry and parishioners on related steps, and that the Rector and all members of the parish are urged to demonstrate sensitivity and respect in the context of members’ continued diversity of theologies, views and experiences of the ministries of ordained women.”

Regarding this matter ...

★ I admit that I was tempted to NOT include this information in this week’s newsletter due to other significant news about the altar mishap and associations that may result ... oh, well ... The motion above does direct me to *‘timely communicate’* and I’m doing so.

★ I will likely schedule one or more women priests to officiate at weekday masses in the coming weeks, partly because this matter has been hanging in the air too long and if we’re going to move ahead we should do so, and partly because I do have open spots in the clergy rota for February.

★ I imagine I will include women clergy in our Sunday masses sometime before summer. Knowing how women priests have been introduced in many Episcopal parishes over the past 40+ years and some of the related dynamics and practices, I will likely give notice and, for at least six months or a year, publish the Sunday clergy rota in the weekly newsletter along with other Sunday liturgy and music information.

★ Some background information on this decision may be found in a four-page section of the 2018 Annual Report, available by request.

