

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
September 7, 2022

**Present:** Fr. RJ, Bruce Hixon, Sr. Warden; John Willoughby, Jr. Warden; Beth Crowl, Carol Hayn, Marcia Kiesling, Gene Little, Mandy Pelger, Leslie Redmon, Sara Strattan

**Guest:** Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Fr. RJ. Charlie provided the opening devotion.

John **motioned** to accept the minutes of the August 3, 2022, meeting, with the correction that the names of the proposed representatives to the Convention be identified as *nominees* instead of delegates. Carol seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

### Wardens' Reports

- **Senior Warden**
  - We are looking for someone to serve as Head Usher to replace Bob Kennedy who has moved out of state.
- **Junior Warden**
  - John is going to be a delegate to the Convention and wants thoughts about the bishop candidates from the Vestry as well as the parish.
  - Fr. RJ suggested that looking at the candidates' parish websites and videos of their sermons may be helpful.

### Rector's Report

- **Fellowship**
  - Fr. RJ had intended to resume Bible Study between the services in the family room, but now an informal fellowship gathering is occurring at the same time and place. Finding value for the parish in the fellowship time, he will look for a different time and place to conduct Bible Study.
- **Goals for 2022**
  - **Membership**
    - Our goal of adding 5 new households by the end of the year has been achieved.
  - **Outreach**
    - Fr. RJ is meeting with Pastor Marilyn Roman of Hope Outreach to determine a hands-on ministry that our parish can be involved in.
    - We are still intending to become involved with Weaver School and will discuss details with the school at a less busy time of year.

### Buildings and Grounds

- Many of the issues itemized in the August minutes, such as painting, parking lot, and storm drains, are being addressed and moving forward.

### Betty Fortney Chapel

- Leslie discussed the maintenance that needs done to the Betty Fortney Outdoor Chapel.
- John mentioned that Matt Brown, Betty Fortney's grandson, created the wall and benches as an Eagle Scout Project, and that is why it is named in her honor.
- The Chapel is a testament to the founding families of the church and is worth fixing up even if it is only used once a year. During covid we used it every Sunday as weather permitted, and also for Evening Prayer.
- We will develop a project scope listing all the specific work that needs done. Then Gary Mull will see if a Scout would be interested in doing this as an Eagle Project.

### Vulnerability Assessment

- A grant is available from the State of Ohio for schools and churches to improve security. As the first step in pursuing the grant, we have asked ProTech to check the security of our building, and the Canton Police to assess the security of the outside of our building.

### Outreach Committee/Thanksgiving

- Mandy presented two Outreach opportunities:
  - Financial and volunteer support for a catered Thanksgiving Dinner for the students at Gibbs School.
  - Volunteer at First Fridays, a monthly family classroom event at Gibbs School.
- Mandy **motioned** to approve the recommendation of the Outreach Committee to financially support the Thanksgiving Dinner Project at Gibbs School. Sara seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

### Stewardship Committee

- The "Moving Forward Together" dinners are scheduled for September 22 and September 28. Following the dinners, members of the Stewardship Committee will make a presentation.

### Lazarus Committee

- Derek Gordon was elected Chair of the Lazarus Committee.
- We are to report to the State annually that we have a place where human remains are stored.

### Convention Delegates

- Fr. RJ **motioned** to approve the appointment of nominees MaryAnn Kiesling, Charlie Kiesling, and John Willoughby as Delegates to the Annual Diocesan Convention. Sara seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34pm with a **motion** by Beth, seconded by Sara, and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 5, 2022, at 5:30pm. Bruce will provide the Reflection and Prayer for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Violand  
Clerk