

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

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

Not Present: Beth Crowl

Guest: Maggie Holihan, President of the Board of Trustees

The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm with a prayer by Fr. RJ. Sara provided the devotion.

John **motioned** to accept the minutes of the November 2, 2022, meeting. Leslie seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Board of Trustees

- Maggie Holihan presented, for the Vestry's review, proposed changes to the Agreement and Declaration of Trust that will need to be voted on by the congregation at the Annual Meeting.
- The proposed changes are:
 - Revised language to reflect more gender-neutral language.
 - Revise the required members of the Trustee Appointment Committee to consist of the Senior Warden, the President of the Trustees, and the Rector. The requirements to include the Treasurer, the President of Altar Guild, and the Sunday School Superintendent are being removed.
 - Allow one Trustee who is not the Senior Warden to also serve as a Vestry member.
- Carol **motioned** that the Vestry supports the proposed changes to the Declaration of Trust from the Trustees. Bruce seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Wardens' Reports

- **Senior Warden**
 - No report.
- **Junior Warden**
 - John said he got a lot of positive feedback on the Intergenerational Service.

Rector's Report

- **Intergenerational Service**
 - We will consider doing an Intergenerational Service quarterly because it was so well done and well received. Fellowship and building a sense of community is an important part of the service.
 - The Blessing of the Backpacks could be one of the Intergenerational Services.
- **Doctor of Ministry Program**
 - Fr. RJ has finished his first round of classes and will start intensive classes in January. He will need to attend classes in person at the Seminary for 6 days.

Outreach Opportunity

- **Sunday School Project**
 - The Sunday School would like to do an outreach project to benefit Hope Outreach. As soon as the project is selected, the parish will be invited to participate.

Stewardship

- We have received 73 pledges so far, totaling a little over \$170,000.
- The Stewardship Dinners and Presentations seemed to be effective, as many people raised their pledges for 2023.

Safe Churches Training

- Vestry members were sent invitations from the Diocese to complete online Safe Churches Training.
- All Vestry members who are not rotating off the Vestry are required to complete the training.

Weaver Liaison

- We need more regular and clear communication channels between St. Mark's and Weaver School. The best way to accomplish this would be to have a designated Liaison.
- Geoff Gordon has volunteered to be the Weaver Liaison.
- Sara **motioned** to nominate Geoff Gordon to fill the role of Weaver Liaison. John seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Social Media Training

- Social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram are the fastest way to reach more people about our parish and parish activities.
- Geoff, Katie, and John are working on a presentation to be held after one of the 10:00am services on the various ways that individual parishioners can effectively promote St. Mark's on social media.

Other Business

- **Betty Fortney Chapel Cleanup and Refurbishment**
 - Leslie reported that Norm Warren's son had worked on the Chapel for his Eagle Scout project. Gary Mull will be contacting the troop to see if they currently have a scout who is looking for an Eagle project and may be interested in this project.
- **Flower Dedications**
 - Sara reported that Altar Guild will increase the cost of flower dedications from \$15 to \$20 in 2023 to keep up with the increased cost of flowers.
- **Coffee Hour**
 - Cookies are needed to draw more people into the family room for coffee hour. We can use money for refreshments from the Fellowship account or ask for volunteer bakers.

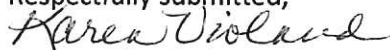
The meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm with a **motion** by Sara, seconded by Bruce, and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2023, at 5:30pm. Leslie will provide the Reflection and Prayer for the meeting.

Addendum – Housing Allowance Resolution

- All Vestry members were contacted via email for approval of the Housing Allowance Resolution for 2023. Seven Vestry members responded to the email, all with approval.

Respectfully submitted,


Karen Violand, Clerk