

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
June 7, 2023

**Present:** Fr. RJ, Leslie Redmon, Sr. Warden; John Willoughby, Jr. Warden (via Zoom); Kent Clark, Carol Hayn, Joe Hoot, Sara Strattan, Rick Werren

**Not Present:** Gene Little, Mandy Pelger

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with devotion and prayer provided by Sara.

Joe **motioned** to accept the minutes of the May 3, 2023, meeting. Rick seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **Wardens' Reports**

- **Senior Warden**
  - Leslie will meet tomorrow with the Scout who is refurbishing the Betty Fortney Chapel. His next step is to submit his report to the Council and then start fundraising.
  - Bruce Hixon has requested that we add Evening Prayer as an additional Committee under the Worship Ministry, with Bruce as the contact person.
  
- **Junior Warden**
  - John commended Geoff for doing a good job as Liaison with Weaver School.
  - Last year we gave Weaver approval to put a storage shed outside the lower level around the corner from the back door. They may install the shed over the summer.
  - A neighbor has asked permission to use our parking lot for graduation party parking on Saturday, June 24 so there will be less parking on the street. Fr. RJ will get the address of the neighbor.

### **Rector's Report**

- **Sunday School**
  - Fr. RJ is working with Katie on input for surveying Sunday School parents for what they need and want.
- **New Members Class**
  - Fr. RJ is preparing materials for a class for new members.
- **Meeting with Bishop**
  - Fr. RJ will have a meeting with Bishop Anne Jolly on June 14<sup>th</sup>.
- **Diocese Listening Sessions**
  - Bishop Jolly will be conducting Listening Sessions around the diocese and Fr. RJ encouraged attendance to learn more about what she envisions for the parishes. John mentioned that a Listening Session will be held at St. Timothy's on June 22 at 6:30pm and is expected to last 2 hours.

### **Old Business**

- **Meeting Our Objectives (Growth)**
  - The recommendations from the Grow My Church Committee report from August 2013 were reviewed, and those items that have already been accomplished were noted.
  - The next step will be to decide which prior recommendations are still relevant and important and should be pursued, as well as make new recommendations.

- Fr. RJ noted that the Czech Republic was able to raise their dwindling church attendance by inviting people to participate in their outreach programs. After participating in a church's outreach activity, they found that people were more likely to join the church. Outreach was giving younger people meaning in their lives.
- **Vestry Handbook**
  - Work on updating the Vestry Handbook will be taking place over the summer.
- **Updates from Committee Liaisons**
  - Articles in the Lion's Pause about the various ministries are important to raise awareness of all the activities that are going on in the church. Liaisons were asked to encourage the committee heads to give articles to Katie.
  - The Men Out Dining group is active and well attended.
  - ECW is planning to host events that will be open to all parishioners.
  - The date of the Summer parish picnic will be determined and announced.
  - The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee has formed and will begin gathering historical information for display. The date for the celebration is Sunday, May 18, 2025.

### **New Business**

- **Building and Grounds**
  - The Building and Grounds Committee reported on various maintenance issues that must be addressed, and submitted a motion for the Vestry's consideration.
  - Sara **motioned** that the Vestry instruct the Finance Committee to establish funding plans for a new fire alarm system, classroom and flat roof replacement, and the replacement of the East lower-level entry door. Probable plans include \$150,000 capital loans, a grant from the Diocese of Ohio, and resubmitting the Ohio Security Grant application that was denied earlier this year. Rick seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- **Audit**
  - The findings from our audit are minor and mostly concern policies that we need to adopt.
  - Sara will put together the findings and present recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm with a **motion** by Kent, seconded by Joe, and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 6:00pm. Joe will provide the Reflection and Prayer for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Violand  
Clerk