

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
December 4, 2019

**Present:** Fr. Gaston, Derek Gordon, Sr. Warden; Rhonda Warren, Jr. Warden, Linda Deuble, Grace Giammarco, Bob Kennedy, Beck Rand, Christy Thorley, Caroline Willoughby

**Excused:** Sara Strattan, John Wise

**Guest:** Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. Beck led the opening devotions.

Rhonda **motioned** to accept the minutes of the November 6, 2019 meeting. Caroline seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

### Finance Committee

- **2019 Stewardship Campaign**
  - We are anticipating pledges of \$175,000 for 2020.
  
- **2020 Budget Proposal**
  - Charlie presented the proposed 2020 Budget which includes an estimate of funds needed from the Trust Account to balance the budget.
  
  - Bob made the following **motion**, which was seconded by Linda and approved:
    - The Vestry approves the Finance Committee's 2020 Proposed Budget with the following adjustments:
      1. Income Line Item "4005 - Pledges" will be adjusted based on 2020 stewardship pledges on December 31, 2019.
      2. Income Line Item "4500 - St. Mark's Trust Account" will be adjusted to cover the budgeted expenses exceeding budgeted income.
  
  - The Vestry needs to approve all capital expenditures as they arise. No threshold has been set yet to determine capital expenditures not needing Vestry approval.
  
  - Accounts "5123 – Budget Fellowship and Social" and "5190 – Evangelism/Mission" need better definitions. We may wait to do this until we get a new rector.
  
  - Rhonda made a **motion** to approve the following update of Sunday Offering Counters. Bob seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
    - Effective January 1, 2020 the following parishioners will serve as Offering Counters: Rick Werren, Joe Hoot, Carol Popovich, Christy Thorley, Bob Kocab, Geoff Gordon, Barrie Thorp, Gary Mull, Bruce Hixon, Charlie Kiesling, and new member Norm Warren who is replacing Caroline Willoughby.

## Senior Warden's Report

- **2020 Vestry Recruitment/Leadership**
  - **By Laws Proposal** – Caroline made a **motion** to approve the language of the Proposal and put it on the Agenda of the Annual Meeting. Beck seconded the motion and the motion was approved. The language of the Voting Rights Proposal is as follows:
    - In the time of transition where a permanent rector is not in place, the Vestry may choose to temporarily appoint the Senior and Junior Warden beyond their respective terms by a majority vote. The duration of this temporary appointment should last no more than three months beyond the start date of the new rector. These positions shall be in addition to the normal number of Vestry members and shall not reduce the number of seats available for new Vestry members. These positions shall retain voting rights during their temporary appointment.
  - **Vestry Recruits** – We are seeking nominations for the next class of Vestry members from the parish and from the retiring Vestry members.
- **St. Mark's 60<sup>th</sup>/65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – The event date is December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 after the 10:00am service. There are 104 people signed up to attend at this time. Father Sloan and Kathy will be attending. Dustin is unable to attend, but he sent a congratulatory letter that will be made available for the parish to read. Rhonda displayed samples of the commemorative mugs that will be given to past priests and the special bookmarks that all in attendance will receive.
- **Annual Meeting Date** – The Annual Meeting will be held January 19, 2020 following a single service at 9:00am.

## Transition Update

- There has been an increase in the number of views of our “seeking rector” ad in *Living Church*.
- The Search Committee is going to pursue making a promotional video about St. Mark's.

## Rector's Report

- **Anniversary Celebration Planning** – Fr. Gaston commended Rhonda and everyone involved in the good preparation for the event.
- **Doorknob Invitations** – Bob was thanked for taking the initiative to create doorknob invitations (*see Other Business*) to be distributed in the neighborhood.
- **Informal Discussions** – The Informal Discussions will be scheduled soon for spring, including Lent.
- **Stewardship Presentations** – Fr. Gaston thanked Derek for coordinating the Stewardship presentations and complimented the quality of the presentations.
- **Youth Involvement** – We have had good follow-through on the Bishop's advice to recruit our youth to serve as acolytes and lectors.
- **Parish Statistics**—Since St. Mark's founding there have been:
  - 1,530 Baptisms
  - 273 Marriages
  - 1,140 Confirmations
- **Intergenerational Event** – There will be an intergenerational event in February on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Planning is in progress.
- **Farewell Liturgy** – Fr. Gaston offered to conduct a Farewell Liturgy for the Ryan Family, as they are leaving St. Mark's to join a parish in Akron that their children attend.

## Other Business

- **Doorknob Invitations** – Bob Kennedy worked with Katie to design invitations to hang on the doorknobs of homes in the neighboring area to invite people to attend our Christmas services. We are positioning ourselves as the friendly neighborhood church.
- **Building and Grounds**
  - Tree trunks are being cut up and the wood will be given to anyone who wants it. The power company has marked 10 more trees to be cut down.
  - A roof leak in the school area is being repaired. It was caused by a screw coming out of deteriorated caulking on flashing.
  - A valve on a regulator is being installed to control heat in the front of the Sanctuary in the acolyte area.
- **St. Paul's Programs** – Bob shared flyers from a series of community programs that St. Paul's is involved in and noted that the Diocese donated \$6,000 to support the programs.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:03pm.

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 5:30pm. Grace will provide the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Violand  
Clerk