

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
February 5, 2020

**Present:** Fr. Gaston, Derek Gordon, Sr. Warden; Rhonda Warren, Jr. Warden; Beth Crowl, Linda Deuble, Bruce Hixon, Bob Kennedy, Marcia Kiesling, Caroline Willoughby

**Excused:** Grace Giammarco, Beck Rand, and John Wise

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

The 2020 Vestry Reflection Schedule was distributed.

Caroline **motioned** to accept the minutes of the January 8, 2020 meeting. Beth seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

### **Finance Committee**

- **2019 Parochial Report**
  - The 2019 Parochial Report is in the process of being completed.

### **Senior Warden's Report**

- **2020 Vestry Class**
  - Derek welcomed new members Beth Crowl, Bruce Hixon, and Marcia Kiesling.
- **Diocesan Communication**
  - The Diocese issued a Resolution that calls all parishes to adopt a *Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth from Abuse* that meets or exceeds Diocesan Policies. We will use a template from other parishes.
  - All Sunday School teachers have completed the *Safeguarding God's Children* training. Certifications must be renewed every three years.
- **Vestry Retreat**
  - The Vestry Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 8:30am.
- **Building and Grounds**
  - The Building and Grounds Committee will meet on Sunday, February 9, 2020.
  - A list of wants and needs will be compiled. Items will be prioritized to take a proactive approach. Maintenance will be done from the list rather than wait until things break.
  - The parking lot will be discussed. If we reopen the Yale entrance, we will ask Weaver to help with the costs, which could be a few thousand dollars.
- **Polling Location**
  - Derek notified the Board of Elections that we no longer wish to be a polling location effective 2021.
- **Stark County Fair Participation**
  - We will submit another grant request to the Diocese to support the Fair outreach. We will also ask how long we may continue to be eligible to apply for the grant.
  - Bruce suggested that we create little booklets of prayers for families and children to set on our table for anyone who wants one. Because we are at the Fair as a service and not to promote ourselves, the booklets would not be intended to advertise St. Mark's.
  - John may ask the Fair Board about giving us the space for free. Carol has already paid a deposit for 2020.

## Senior Warden's Report (continued)

- **Coffee Hour**
  - Because we don't have consistent parish signups for Coffee Hour refreshments, the Vestry discussed having a budget for food and supplies for Coffee Hour.
  - Derek will talk to Katie about getting general snacks for Coffee Hour.
  - After the meeting, Derek showed Vestry members how to lock the doors and turn on the alarm system when leaving the building.

## Transition Update

- **Seminaries**
  - Letters will be sent to seminaries introducing St. Mark's.
- **Promotional Video**
  - The Search Committee is planning to make a promotional video of the parish. The cost will be \$1,600-\$1,800 and may be split with the marketing budget if it's not strictly a recruitment video.

## Rector's Report

- **Scheduling Survey Results**
  - **Lenten Study**
    - Results were 50/50 on the preference of Sunday morning or Wednesday evening, so we will offer both sessions. Fr. Gaston will lead the Sunday discussion and a parishioner will facilitate the Wednesday evening discussion.
  - **Summer Schedule**
    - The majority of respondents were in favor of one 9:00am service. No decisions will be made at this point.
  - **Info for Eventual Christmas Planning**
    - Responses are being considered, but it is too soon to start planning.
- **Lenten Study Series**
  - A draft flyer is being prepared for the Lenten series, "The Devil, You Say" in which the facilitator is the Devil's Advocate in a discussion of the Seven Deadly Sins. Attendees refute the Devil's position.
  - Discussion leaders' guides will be provided for the Wednesday evening facilitators.
- **Current Rota**
  - Fr. Gaston distributed the current Rota through June 14, 2020.
  - Rev. Barbara Bond has volunteered to help with some of the Easter services.
- **Vestry Retreat**
  - The Vestry Retreat will be held on Saturday February 29, 2020 from 8:30am – 12:00 noon at the church. An agenda is being put together with the Wardens.
- **Evensong Services**
  - Fr. Gaston met with St. Paul's and St. Timothy's to collaborate on Evensong services.
    - Trinity Sunday, June 7, 2020 at 4:00pm at St. Mark's followed by a picnic.
    - All Saints Day, November 1, 2020 at 4:00pm at St. Timothy's followed by a reception.
    - Lent, February 14, 2021 at 4:00pm at St. Paul's followed by Mardi Gras.
  - Choirs will have rehearsals the day before the Evensong services.
  - New Life would like to be involved. They will observe the first year and then host in the future.

## **Other Business**

- **Outside Door in Former Choir Room**
  - Bob adjusted the outside door in the former choir room so it will now close. Weaver does not use the door.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:25pm.

The next meeting is Wednesday March 4, 2020 at 5:30pm. Rhonda will provide the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Violand  
Clerk