

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
January 8, 2020

**Present:** Fr. Gaston, Derek Gordon, Sr. Warden; Linda Deuble, Grace Giammarco, Bob Kennedy, Beck Rand, Sara Strattan, Christy Thorley, Caroline Willoughby, John Wise

**Excused:** Rhonda Warren, Jr. Warden

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

Beck **motioned** to accept the minutes of the December 4, 2019 meeting. Linda seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

### **Finance Committee**

- **2019 Stewardship Campaign**
  - The Pledged amount for 2020 is \$173,898.
  - There were 22 increased pledges.
- **Financial Report**
  - In 2019 operating income exceeded operating expenses by \$56,332. Half of this has been put in our operating reserve. The other half has been put in capital reserves.
  - We will pay off the loan to the Diocese in 1Q20.
  - Both Sara and Fr. Gaston commended Katie, Derek, and Rhonda for doing a lot of extra work that has allowed us to function well with a part-time rector.
  - The Restoration Committee will be meeting and reactivating.
- **Committee Member Appointment**
  - Sara made a **motion** to appoint Geoff Gordon to the Finance Committee. John seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- **Trustees Member Appointments**
  - John made a **motion** to appoint Maggie Holihan to the Board of Trustees to fill the remaining term of Mike Ryan, who is leaving the church. Grace seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
  - Bob made a **motion** to appoint Geoff Gordon to the Board of Trustees to replace retiring Trustee member John Willoughby. Linda seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

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

- **2020 Vestry Recruitment/Leadership**
  - **Vestry Recruits** – Beth Crowl, Bruce Hixon, and Marcia Kiesling are the nominees for the 2020 Vestry class. All have 3-year terms.
- **St. Mark's 60<sup>th</sup>/65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** – Derek congratulated Rhonda and all who helped with the event.
- **Annual Meeting Reminder**
  - The Annual Meeting will be held January 19, 2020 following a single service at 9:00am.
  - There will be a short Vestry meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting to elect the Junior and Senior Wardens. Typically, the Rector nominates the Senior Warden and the Vestry members elect the Junior Warden.
- **Vestry Retreat** – A morning retreat will be sufficient to set goals for 2020 and beyond. The date will be set at the next meeting when the new Vestry members will be present.

- **Parking Lot Update** – The parking lot is starting to age with more wear and tear from Weaver School traffic. The Building and Grounds committee will meet to explore options. A full resurface of the lot will cost approximately \$30-40K. We may be able to use the driveway to Yale St. that is currently blocked off, which would eliminate some of the congestion in the parking lot on school days.
- **Polling Location**
  - Sara **motioned** that we notify the Board of Elections that we will be a polling location through 2020. Caroline seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
  - John **motioned** that we allocate any proceeds from the bake sales during elections to go to community outreach. Christy seconded the motion and the motion was approved. We will display a list of outreach projects to show people during the bake sales.
- **Stark County Fair Participation**
  - We have reserved and made a deposit on our space for our Baby Changing and Feeding Station for 2020. Our location will be closer to the restrooms for greater visibility.
  - We will submit another grant request to the Diocese to support this outreach.
  - The Stark Community Foundation may also have funds available.

### Transition Update

- There has not been much activity due to the holidays.

### Rector's Report

- **Christmas Services**
  - Fr. Gaston created and distributed a chart that compares attendance at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services from 2016 – 2019.
  - We will conduct a parish survey to learn preferred times for the Christmas services.
- **Doorknob Invitations** – Bob was thanked for the idea and for organizing people to distribute the doorknob invitations to neighbors. Fr. Gaston said that the church has a responsibility to the neighborhood, regardless of people's religions. In the Church of England, the neighborhood is considered "in our parish". We may repeat the invitations prior to Holy Week.
- **Informal Discussions** – The Informal Discussions are scheduled for spring, including Lent.
- **Rota** – Fr. Gaston distributed the rota through April 26.
- **Liturgical color for Epiphanytide.** – We will be using the liturgical color white throughout Epiphanytide.

### Other Business

- **Altar Guild** – Sara confirmed with Fr. Gaston that the greens should come down after the service on Sunday February 2<sup>nd</sup> which is the Feast of the Presentation.
- **Ordo Calendars** – Fr. Gaston will ask Katie to place an order for 2020 Ordo Calendars.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:30pm.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 5:30pm. Derek will provide the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Violand  
Clerk