

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2019

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

Absent: Sara Strattan

Guest: Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

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

Bob **motioned** to accept the minutes of the May 1, 2019 meeting. John seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Senior Warden's Report

- **Stark County Fair Grant Proposal**
 - St. Mark's and St. Timothy's together received a \$1,400 grant from the Diocese of Ohio to provide a Baby Booth at the Stark County Fair.
 - Carol will work with St. Timothy's to schedule volunteer shifts.
 - We will meet with the Fair Board regarding adjustment of the fees they charge us for our booth. We are providing a service and are not like other vendors. If our fees are not adjusted, we will give the Fair Board a one-year notice and let them know that we are there this year only because of the grant that we received.
- **Tree Damage and Repair** – The total cost to repair the damage from the fallen tree was around \$3,600. Our deductible was \$1,000 and our insurance paid for the remainder of the repairs. Bob will consult with an arborist to see if the remaining half of the tree is healthy or should be removed.
- **Website Language** – Derek received an email pointing out that the inclusive language on our website is still missing some groups. We will replace our current language with that from the Diocese's website.
- **Coffee Hour Monitors** – Vestry members will be appointed the responsibility to shut down and clean up each week after Coffee Hour. Derek will post and email the assignment list. Katie will put a note in the bulletin asking for donations of baked goods or cookies. It will be necessary to make sure someone with a key is available to lock up the church after everything is cleaned up and all parishioners have left.
- **Lector Guides** – Bruce Hixon submitted a proposal for the church to split the cost of Lector's Guides with any Lector who wants them. Lector's Guides provide commentary and pronunciations for each lectionary scripture reading. Guides are available as a set of three books to accompany years A, B, and C. Caroline made a **motion** to accept Bruce's proposal for any Lector who wants a set of the three books. Linda seconded the motion. The Vestry decided to postpone discussion and voting until the July meeting when more purchasing information is available.
- **Legacy Giving** – In order to encourage various types of legacy gifts we need to develop a Legacy Giving program and procedure. We already have specific accounts in place to receive these gifts. John **motioned** to allow a Planned Giving committee to actively solicit donations. Caroline seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Finance Committee

- The Committee provided a review and analysis of the impact of the Weaver Proposal. With the approval of additional space, the agreement will deliver \$91,530 to St. Mark's bottom line over the next 3 years.

Transition Update

- There is nothing to report at this time. Derek and Grace visited St. Paul's Medina at Beth's request to share with their Vestry our experiences with the search process, as they are also searching for a new rector.

Weaver Proposal for Additional Space

Weaver would like additional space for their students, and has proposed that for an additional \$400 per month for years 3-5 of our lease, we will:

- Make the current Choir Room and the Robe Room "Weaver Space".
- Formalize the current arrangement in which the Library is considered "Joint Space".
- Return to St. Mark's the full use of the storage room next to the family bathroom in the basement to be repurposed as a Choir Room.

Charlie presented the Finance Committee's review and analysis regarding the fairness of the proposal. After reviewing St. Mark's operating cost increases for the last two years, and Weaver's proposal, the Committee determined that the proposed rent should far exceed any projected increased operating expenses for the additional space. As a result, the Finance Committee unanimously agreed that the \$4,800 per year rent increase was a fair proposal for the additional space.

Realizing that the decision to accept the proposal was more than just a financial decision, the vestry seriously discussed all facets of the proposal. Many vestry members had received comments from parishioners with various concerns and wanted to make sure all parishioners' concerns were taken into consideration. Concerns ranged from feelings of encroachment and loss of the choir room and its memorial to the risk of losing a good tenant that contributes to our financial solvency.

After much discussion, Rhonda made a **motion** to allow Weaver Childhood Development (Weaver CDC) to proceed with the arrangements as outlined in this proposal contingent upon approval of a formal amendment to St. Mark's existing agreement with Weaver CDC that accurately reflects this proposal at the July Vestry meeting. The motion was seconded by Bob. The vote was 4 in favor, 4 against, and 1 abstention. The motion neither passed nor failed.

John made a **motion** to table the vote, let everyone reflect on the alternatives, and reconvene and vote again. Bob seconded the motion.

Discussion acknowledged that Weaver needed an answer soon, because they would need the entire summer to prepare the new rooms for the new school year. Vestry members wanted the opportunity to meet with the parishioners they had talked to before voting again. However, if all Vestry members were not able to reconvene, the vote would be delayed until July which would be too late for Weaver, should the proposal be approved.

Rhonda **motioned** to have another vote after further discussion instead of reconvening at another time to vote. Bob seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Derek offered that he could specify to Weaver that after this, St. Mark's would be unwilling to give up any more space, and that we would like the existing memorial painting in the choir room to remain. The new choir room will be dedicated with a new memorial.

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Rector's Report

Parishioners were given a survey to determine interest *during the summer months* in (1) using proposed expansive language in our liturgy, (2) having one Sunday service, and (3) informal discussions led by Father Gaston after the service.

- The parish voted in favor of a trial during the summer of the proposed expansive liturgical language.
- The parish voted overwhelmingly in favor of having one service during the summer at 9:00am. Caroline **motioned** to have one service at 9:00 during the summer, dates TBA, but probably starting in July. Bob seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- Fr. Gaston will schedule informal discussions and distribute the dates and topics to the parish.

Other Business

- The parish exceeded Beth's \$750 matching gift to be shared equally among the Restoration Campaign, the Rector's Discretionary Fund, and the Bishop's Annual Appeal. A thank-you card will be sent to Beth for her generosity.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:35pm.

The next meeting is Wednesday, July 3, 2019 at 5:30pm. Christy will provide the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Violand
Clerk