

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
May 1, 2019

**Present:** 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

**Guests:** Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer; Joe Hoot, Search Committee Chair

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm. Sara led opening devotions with the Prayer for Social Justice from the Prayer Book. She recommended the book, *The Cloister Walk* by Kathleen Norris.

Caroline **motioned** to accept the corrected minutes of the April 2, 2019 meeting. An instance of misspelling Caroline's name was corrected. The motion was seconded by Grace and the motion was approved.

### Finance Committee

- Charlie distributed the 1 Q 19 Financial Reports. Actual income exceeded budget by \$1,800. This was driven by the 2019 Stewardship Campaign exceeding budgeted pledged income by \$16,000. Expenses for the first quarter were \$1,417 under budget.
- Upon recommendation of the Finance Committee, Sara **motioned** and Christy seconded that the following accounts be merged and named as noted below. The motion was approved.
  - The Hunger Outreach Account will be merged into the Special Needs Account.
  - The Organ Donation Account will be merged into the St. Mark's Music Account.
- The final \$14,423 that was borrowed from the Trust account will be returned to the Trust from the Restoration Funds on hand.
- The Finance Committee recommends that the previous motion to move money market funds from Key Bank to Huntington Bank be amended to instead move the funds to Westfield Bank. Westfield Bank offered a better rate of interest. John **motioned** to open a new St. Mark's Money Market Account at Westfield Bank and move the majority of money market funds from Key Bank to Westfield Bank. Signers on the account will be Treasurer Charlie Kiesling, Office Manager Katie Kuceyeski, and Finance Committee member Sara Strattan. Linda seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

### Transition Update

- Joe Hoot reported that at this moment there are no Rector candidates. Rev. Percy Grant affirmed that we are doing everything right and that there is just a smaller than usual pool of candidates at this time. We should be patient and wait for the right person to come along.

### Senior Warden's Report

- **Stark County Fair Grant Proposal**
  - We will be submitting a Grant Request to the Diocese of Ohio on behalf of St. Mark's and St. Timothy's for \$1,400 to provide a Baby Booth at the Stark County Fair. Expenses are: Booth Space \$650, water/ice/healthy snacks \$200, daily passes for volunteers \$150 (50@\$3), church promotional materials \$400. Most baby supplies have been donated.
  - Beck made a **motion** to approve submitting the Grant Proposal. Caroline seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
  - Carol plans to reduce the number of volunteers needed and have fewer shifts.
  - We are still planning to approach the Fair Board about realizing that we are providing a service and adjusting their fees accordingly.

- **Health and Wellness Program** – A questionnaire was sent to the parish to determine interest in health and wellness programming for St. Mark’s parishioners. The two activities showing the most interest were pay-as-you-go yoga classes and walking.
- **November Election** – Weaver School will be closed on Election Day and Katie is off work that day. Someone from St. Mark’s must be present to open the building at 5:30am and stay until after the polls close at 7:30pm. Carol usually comes for the entire day. Christy will coordinate with Carol to get more volunteers. The Vestry briefly discussed whether to continue to be an election site. It was decided to continue through the November 2019 election and then discuss the issue further at another time.
- **Cleaning Provisions** – The Sanctuary and the Kitchen are not being cleaned like they should be. We will work with the Weaver cleaning crew to see if we need to use them more often or do quarterly deep cleaning. The Kitchen floors may need professional steam cleaning.
- **Pentecost Service** – A special afternoon Pentecost Service with St. Paul’s and St. Timothy’s at St. Mark’s will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm followed by a picnic in the pavilion. This service is in addition the regular Sunday services. Food costs are expected to be negligible.
- **Weaver Proposal for Additional Space**
  - Weaver has offered an additional \$400 per month as an addendum to their existing lease to use the Choir Room and the Robe Room for classrooms. Minor remodeling such as painting and shelving would be done at Weaver’s expense.
  - The Library would remain joint space. Weaver’s use of the Library is included in the additional \$400 per month.
  - The Altar Guild Closet would remain St. Mark’s space.
  - A committee of Beck, Bob Morrison, Caroline, Charlie, Derek, and Rhonda will discuss this proposal. Issues to be resolved are: where our music would be stored, where choir robes would be stored, and the existing memorial to Kathleen Morrison in the choir room.

**Rector’s Report**

- Fr. Gaston expressed his gratitude for the welcome he has received, the spirit of the congregation, and the dedication of those who serve the church in various capacities.
- With his schedule opening up in June, he will be able to be in Canton on occasional weekdays for pastoral visits.
- Fr. Gaston would like to schedule occasional adult forums for the 9:10–9:50am coffee hour and plans to distribute a choice of topics to the congregation.
- This is an ideal time of year to seek a new rector and he is committed to using our time together well, even if the search process takes longer than we had hoped.

**Other Business**

- During a recent storm a tree broke in half and fell on the building, damaging the chimney. The cost to remove the fallen part of the tree was \$675. We will get quotes for removal of the rest of the tree. Insurance will help with the chimney repair.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:53pm.

The next meeting is Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 5:30pm. Bob will provide the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Violand  
Clerk