

St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
October 2, 2019

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

**Excused:** Fr. Gaston, Beck Rand

**Guest:** Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

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

Rhonda **motioned** to accept the minutes of the September 4, 2019 meeting. Grace seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

### **Finance Committee**

- **Restoration Campaign** – Announcements have been made to the parish that we are still short of our goal and more donations are needed.
- **2019 Stewardship Campaign** – The Stewardship Campaign will begin after the additional appeal for Restoration funds has been made. The Stewardship letter will be signed by Derek and Fr. Gaston. The Stewardship Committee does not have a chairperson.

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

- **2020 Vestry Recruitment/Leadership** – Derek will be putting together language for the Vestry's consideration regarding an amendment to the by-laws to allow Wardens to continue beyond their term during a time of transition. No current Vestry members have expressed interest in pursuing a Warden position next year and there seemed to be consensus that asking a brand-new Vestry member to jump into a Warden's position during a time of transition is not realistic.
- **Convention Attendance** – The Annual Convention will be held on November 8-9, 2019 in Huron, OH. Bob Kennedy and Sara Strattan will be the delegates. Tony Keenan will be asked to be the alternate. Rhonda **motioned** that Bob and Sara be the delegates to the Annual Convention, with Tony Keenan as the alternate. John seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- **Outreach** – We are developing a Lion's Pride bulletin, as well as a Lion's Pride area in the church that will highlight and serve as collection areas for our various Outreach projects.
- **Security Committee** – Charlie and Bob have been taking care of our door and lock upgrades. The North End entryway door is difficult to shut because it is rusted and disintegrating. The door is a custom size and will cost approximately \$8,000 to replace and bring up to code with crash bars. We will also investigate to see what has caused the door to disintegrate. Charlie said there is \$11,000 in Capital Reserves for maintenance. Sara **motioned** that we allocate up to \$9,000 in Capital Reserve Funds to replace the North End door so that it is compliant with all applicable regulations. Rhonda seconded the motion and the motion was approved. We will ask Weaver if they want to contribute to the cost of the door since this is their primary entrance door.
- **Online Directory** – Katie is creating an online parish directory that is password protected and can only be accessed by church members with the password. Anyone not wishing to be included in the online directory will be able to opt out.

- **Bishop's Visit**
  - The Bishop will be visiting on October 20<sup>th</sup> and we will have a reception of cake, punch, and tea sandwiches for him and the new confirmands. The Bishop will meet with the Vestry after the reception and he will be invited to go to lunch with Vestry members.
  - We had previously discussed making a promotional video of St. Mark's to assist in our rector search. St. Paul's had done something similar and we will see what their video is like. Depending on what the Bishop says about our search efforts, we may wait until we have a new rector to make a video.
- **St. Mark's 60<sup>th</sup>/65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Proposal**
  - We want to have a celebration of the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Mark's founding which was on October 19, 1954 and the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the December 11, 1960 dedication of our church building. We would invite all past priests to the event. Proposed dates are Sunday December 1, 2019 or Sunday December 8, 2019. The preferred date would be Sunday December 8 to avoid conflict with the first Sunday in Advent and Community Christmas activities on December 1. We would have one service at 10:00 with a catered luncheon in the undercroft.
  - Sara **motioned** to approve formation of a 60<sup>th</sup>/65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee, to allow the event to take place, and to approve the ability to have alcohol if necessary. Caroline seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

### Transition Update

- Joe and Grace will meet with the Bishop during his visit on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Rector's Report

- **Special Liturgies** – We have had several special liturgies in the past month: the outdoor “Sermon on the Mount” service, a blessing of backpacks, the blessing of a new oil-stock for use in Baptisms, and the blessing of the new choir room. All special liturgies require careful preparation.
- **Pastoral Visits** – Fr. Gaston made several hospital and pastoral visits this month. He also met with the Brookes family for planning Donna's funeral.
- **Bishop's Visit** – Fr. Gaston and Katie have been working with the Office of the Bishop to prepare for the Bishop's upcoming visit. Fr. Gaston meets with the confirmands, and he developed a quiz for them on the church's “holy objects” which prompted interesting discussion.
- **Informal Discussions** – The Informal Discussions continue to be well-received and well-attended. The discussion about a “St. Mark's elevator speech” proved to be very timely, as we had four visitors at a 10:00 service.
- **Welcome Guild** – Fr. Gaston is very pleased with the Welcoming Guild, MaryAnn Kiesling's leadership, and the ideas and commitment of the group. On Sunday, October 6, 2019 at the 10:00 service Fr. Gaston will commission and bless the ushers, greeters and the members of the Welcoming Guild.
- **Sermons** – The theme of Fr. Gaston's last three sermons has been stewardship. He has focused on drawing people's attention to what the Gospels have to say instead of giving “stewardship sermons”. After the Stewardship Campaign begins, it would be good if Vestry members, or other members of the congregation, would give brief statements of “What St. Mark's means to me” during the announcements rather than “Take out your wallets”.

### Other Business

- **Event Request** – Marcia Kiesling has requested to use the undercroft for a Birthday Party for her mother. Alcohol may be served. Sara **motioned** that the Vestry approve the Kiesling Birthday Party event with alcohol being served. Rhonda seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- **Altar Guild** – Sara reported that the last work day was very successful and the next one will be scheduled on February 15 or 22, 2020. The Guild is in the process of clearing out unneeded items from storage.

- **Memorial Service** – The family of James Pilz, who passed away in April, would like Beth to perform a memorial service for him. Fr. Gaston has given his approval.

#### **Executive Session**

- John **motioned** to go into Executive Session. Linda seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- Sara **motioned** to adjourn Executive Session. John seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

#### **Fr. Gaston's Appointment**

- Rhonda **motioned** to adjust Fr. Gaston's appointment from one-quarter time to one-half time. Caroline seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:45pm.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 5:30pm. Derek will provide the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Violand  
Clerk