

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2020

Present: Fr. Gaston, Derek Gordon, Sr. Warden; Grace Giammarco, Jr. Warden; Beth Crowl, Linda Deuble, Bruce Hixon, Bob Kennedy, Marcia Kiesling, Beck Rand, Caroline Willoughby, John Wise

Guest: Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

The Vestry met virtually via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. Derek opened the meeting with words of appreciation for Fr. Gaston, who also gave his appreciation for our collaborative Vestry. Fr. Gaston then led the Vestry in a prayer.

The August meeting had been rescheduled for July 27, 2020. Caroline **motioned** to accept the minutes of the July 27, 2020 meeting. Linda seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting scheduled for September 2, 2020 was cancelled.

A special meeting was held via Zoom on September 11, 2020 to discuss the Search Committee's selection of rector candidate for the Vestry's consideration. John **motioned** to accept the minutes of the September 11, 2020 special meeting. Grace seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Finance Committee

- **3rd Quarter Finance Report**
 - Charlie presented the 3rd Quarter Financial Reports. So far we have spent \$3,215 on COVID-related expenses. He anticipates that all of the COVID PPP loan will be forgiven. We will have more expenses in 4th Quarter as we transition to a full-time rector.
- **Diocesan Loan Approval**
 - We received a \$25,758 grant and a \$25,758 loan from the Diocese for our parking lot and boiler capital improvements. Linda **motioned** to approve the \$25,758 St. Mark's Loan Agreement with the Diocese of Ohio dated June 18, 2020. Bruce seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously. The loan has a 5-year term @ 4%, but we can pay it back more quickly if we wish.
- **2019 Diocesan Audit**
 - The auditor had one recommendation which was to provide summary balance sheet information containing the accounts that are of most interest to the parish in the financial reports presented at the parish Annual Meeting. John **motioned** to approve the 2019 Diocesan Audit as required by the Diocese. Beth seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- **Stewardship Campaign**
 - We will start the Stewardship Campaign this week so most pledges will be received by November 1st.

Senior Warden's Report

- We will remain a polling location for the November 2020 election. Charlie is a poll worker, and he and Derek will be present on behalf of St. Mark's. Due to COVID-19 we want to limit the number of parishioners in the building on election day.
- A card of thanks was sent to Blaise Warren for his work on creating the Betty Fortney Outdoor Chapel that we have used all summer.
- Grace, Bob, and Derek are the members of the Nominating Committee and will take nominations from the parish as well as nominations for Junior and Senior Wardens.
- A core group of helpers is needed to operate our streaming equipment on Sundays.
- A generous parishioner has offered a gift to help offset the transition and moving expenses of our new rector.
- Name tags are being made for parishioners for our new rector's arrival.

Junior Warden's Report

- Parishioners Grace has spoken with have been very appreciative of the efforts we have taken this summer to continue having services.
- Some of the Diocese's recommendations for other parishes coping with COVID restrictions have been the result of things we have successfully done.

Transition Update

- **New Rector**
 - Our new rector is Rev. Ronald A. Johnson and will begin November 1, 2020. He prefers to be addressed as Fr. RJ.

Rector's Report

- **New Rector**
 - Fr. Gaston has developed an agenda for an in-person meeting with Fr. RJ, as well as written instructions to help him through the period of transition.
 - Fr. Gaston will communicate to Fr. RJ that St. Mark's has commitments to have a Memorial Service for Fr. Sloan, and a Service of Thanksgiving and Memorial for all parishioners who have passed away during the pandemic, as we were not able to have Memorial Services at that time.
 - Fr. Gaston will start moving out of the office and it will be cleaned before Fr. RJ arrives.
- **Informal Discussion Group**
 - Kathy Kennedy and Sandy Paradis will start to maintain the informal discussion group. The next topic is "How to Plan for the Holidays During a Pandemic".

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:07pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Violand
Clerk