

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
February 1, 2023

Present: Fr. RJ, Leslie Redmon, Sr. Warden; John Willoughby, Jr. Warden; Kent Clark, Carol Hayn, Joe Hoot, Gene Little, Mandy Pelger, Sara Strattan

Not Present: Rick Werren

Guest: Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with devotion and prayer provided by Carol.

John **motioned** to accept the minutes of the January 4, 2023, meeting. Mandy seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Carol **motioned** to accept the minutes of the Special January 22, 2023, meeting. John seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

4th Quarter 2022 Financial Report

- Charlie presented the 4th Quarter 2022 Financial Recap Report and explained the format of the report to the new Vestry members.
- The Vestry considered focusing on finances at the April Vestry meeting by inviting a designated person from the Trustees and the Finance Committee after the 1st Quarter results are available. The purpose would be for the Vestry to better understand the parish finances so the Vestry can address and avoid funding shortfalls.
- We will continue communicating to the parish of the need for growth beyond just for financial reasons. The more aware the parish is of our vision, the more ideas we can get on how to attract more members.
- Fr. RJ suggested making a 3-5 minute video to share our vision and accomplishments.

Wardens' Reports

- **Senior Warden**
 - Leslie welcomed the new Vestry members.
- **Junior Warden**
 - John reminded Vestry members that they are required to complete the online Safe Churches training offered by the Diocese. The focus is on recognizing and dealing with bullying and inappropriate behavior.
 - John and Fr. RJ are looking into the Civil Discourse Program from the National Church that is mentioned in the Diocese News. This may be a good tool for people to use individually.

Rector's Report

- **Lenten Program**
 - The Lenten Program will be a brief study on the themes in the Book of Revelation. The program will be held on Wednesdays beginning March 8th, and include casual suppers.
 - The traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper will be held on February 21st. The Men Out Dining group will assist with cooking.

Rector's Report (continued)

- **Consecration of New Bishop**
 - The consecration of our new Bishop, Rev. Anne Jolly, will be held on April 29th at Cleveland Public Auditorium. We will find out if tickets are needed and arrange for a carpool for those who wish to attend.
- **Doctor of Ministry Program**
 - Fr. RJ has been given a coursework assignment to write a proposal for a study in the parish. He has chosen to do a study on the children's ministry at St. Mark's and will conduct interviews and do asset mapping to find out what we have and what families need. The objective is to find out what we need to do to keep children engaged in the church, and how we can support families when children become involved in many other activities.

Old Business

- **Weaver School Update**
 - Geoff Gordon continues to meet with representatives from the Weaver Board on an ongoing basis.
 - John reviewed for the Vestry a summary update of the most recent agreements and understandings with Weaver.

New Business

- **Parochial Report**
 - The 2022 Parochial Report was presented to the Vestry for review.
 - Sara **motioned** to approve the 2022 Parochial Report as written. Carol seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.
- **Meet and Greet and 2023 Schedule**
 - We have a parish calendar on our website, but not everything is on it. Sara pointed out that a filled-in calendar will help attract new members.
- **Committees and Contacts**
 - Fr. RJ will bring a list of committees to the next meeting so Vestry members can sign up to be formal Vestry contacts for the groups.
- **Retreat**
 - Various formats for a Vestry Retreat and also a Parish Retreat were discussed. Vestry members will assess interest and discuss again at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm with a **motion** by Joe, seconded by Sara, and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at 6:00pm. Sara will provide the Reflection and Prayer for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Violand
Clerk