

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2023

Present: Fr. RJ, Leslie Redmon, Sr. Warden; John Willoughby, Jr. Warden (via Zoom); Kent Clark, Carol Hayn, Joe Hoot, Gene Little, Rick Werren

Not Present: Mandy Pelger, Sara Strattan

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm with devotion and prayer provided by Joe.

John **motioned** to accept the minutes of the June 7, 2023, meeting with a minor correction. Rick seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Wardens' Reports

- **Senior Warden**
 - We have been receiving donations from the parish for the renovation of the Betty Fortney Chapel. This illustrates the parish's support for the project.
 - A group has formed to begin planning the 70th Anniversary celebration to be held on Sunday, May 18, 2025.
 - Vestry Handbook updating is in progress.
- **Junior Warden**
 - John suggested that Vestry members receive and read the Diocesan newsletter because it often contains many interesting and pertinent items.
 - The Diocese led a Listening Session at St. Timothy's. Charlie Kiesling attended and found it interesting. The next session is in Kent on July 27.
 - The Diocese is offering access to the "Project Resource" program for Stewardship teams. This does not appear to be the TENS Program that is also available.

Rector's Report

- **Intensive Classes**
 - Fr. RJ's most recent Intensive Class in Lexington focused on the awareness of trauma and ways to create a safe community for those who have experienced trauma.
 - Fr. RJ will be developing a program for Lent based on God, Creation, and Church and how they relate to one another.
- **Parish Picnic**
 - The parish picnic was held on Sunday, July 16 and was well attended by more than 50 people.
- **Funeral Planning**
 - Fr. RJ emphasized the need for people to plan their funerals and encouraged the Vestry to talk to parishioners about this and promote end of life planning.

Old Business

- **Meeting Our Objectives (Growth)**
 - Joe distributed the feedback he got from members of the 2013 Growth Committee. They were glad that we contacted them, and were happy that so many of their recommendations have been implemented. They encouraged us to continue to recommend initiatives that will promote growth.

- It was noted that our Mission Statement is largely unnoticed. Several ideas were discussed on how to increase awareness of our Mission Statement and make it more visible. We will start with printing it in the bulletins.
- The Vestry discussed how uncomfortable it can be for Episcopalians to invite people to church. Fr. RJ noted that those who are looking for a church are the most likely to come back and stay and become members. It would be helpful if we knew how to listen in conversations to assess when someone is at a point where they are looking for what a church can offer.
- Fr. RJ is willing to develop an evening program on how to talk to people about church without it being awkward. Before he does this, he would like assurance that it would be well attended.
- **Buildings and Grounds Update**
 - The Vestry had asked the Finance Committee to establish funding plans for a new fire alarm system, replacement of the flat roof, and replacement of the east lower level doors.
 - Fire Alarm System
 - We are waiting for repair recommendations from the contractor on whether to replace the entire system or just replace the existing panel.
 - Flat Roof
 - For now, we will enter into a maintenance agreement with one of the contractors and reassess the roof condition in the spring.
 - Replacement of Lower Level East Doors
 - Options are being explored and a decision has not yet been made.
 - Tree Removal
 - An arborist recently surveyed the condition of the trees on our property and identified several trees that need to be removed as soon as possible due to safety hazards.
 - Carol **motioned** that we spend no more than \$10,000 to remove the trees that have been identified for removal by the arborist. Rick seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- **Audit Report**
 - The Audit Report will be presented at a future meeting.
- **Finance Committee Update**
 - The Finance Committee Update will be presented at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm with a **motion** by Kent, seconded by Rick, and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 2, 2023, at 6:00pm. Carol will provide the Reflection and Prayer for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Violand
Clerk