

## St. Mark's Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

October 18, 2022 6:30 pm

Present: Alysoun Marks, Jeanne Reaves, Jon Eiche, Christine Powell, Melissa Hamon, Michelle D'Antuono, Kathy Barzilla

Absent: Charlie Phillips, Elisa Hughes

### I. Opening

A. AM opened with prayer

B. Agenda was presented. MH made a motion to approve the agenda. CPo seconded the motion. Agenda was approved.

C. Minutes from September meeting were presented. KB made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. JE seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

D. Calendar was presented. MD asked that the Dickinson Trunk or Treat be added on October 28 from 5-7 pm, where St. Mark's will have a table to hand out candy and information about the church and school. She asked that vestry members attend, if possible.

### II. Reports

A. Senior Warden Report - AM

1. Stewardship is underway. The first letter will go out this week. The committee will meet on Thursday. Commitment Sunday is on November 13.

2. Vestry Elections will be held October 30 after the service. We have two commitments and waiting on a third to complete the vestry next year. MH said that a member of the congregation had concerns about who could vote. Do you have to be a confirmed Episcopalian to vote in the election, or just a member of the church? Kim Hart, this week, had checked the canons and bylaws of the diocese and St. Mark's and couldn't find anything that prohibited non-confirmed members of the church to vote. It was felt that it wouldn't be an issue this year because it would be a slate for approval or denial, rather than an actual election where members would run against one another.

3. Transition - the Profile Committee has been set up on Basecamp by the diocese. They should begin their work soon and hopefully have it complete in a month or so. JE noted that he has heard some frustration by members of the church that things are moving too slow. AM agreed that it has been frustrating, but that things aren't moving that much more slowly than previously. It's the lack of an Interim Rector that is making it feel much different than last transition. AM will address this more with the congregation on Sunday mornings.

B. Treasurer Report - MD

1. Financial Reports - The Income and Expense and Balance Sheet were reviewed. Repairs are high, but some repairs are necessary to continue to operate. Unnecessary repairs will be held off, but with elections underway, EH will not have much time to make repairs until after elections are over. The Broadway Show income exceeded the expenses by about \$500. MD has been working with Kim Hart on the budget for next year. Six months of Rector stipend as well as 6-7k for relocation expenses are being included in the budget. We receive information from the diocese that are assessment will be lowered. One quote for a new sound system has been

received and we are working on getting two more. Two parishioners have expressed an interest in offsetting the price of that expense, in addition to their regular tithe. Inflation is raising the cost of things, overall. MD made a motion that we increase the salaries of staff (Kim, Tom and Rueben) by 5% to help with inflation. MH seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Motion to increase salaries by 5% was approved.

2. Rector's Discretionary Fund - We received a letter from the bank stating that unless a minimum balance was kept in the account, we would be charged service fees. MD made a motion that we close the Rector's Discretionary Fund and move the money into another account until we had a new Rector. MH seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion was approved to close the account.

C. Junior Warden Report - AM reported that the ceiling crack next to Kim's office has been repaired. A photo cell and timer for lights in the parking lot were replaced, as well as six bulbs. An electrician suggested that we put a power surge protector on each panel we have to cut down on issues like this. AC in classroom A/B was repaired. SMES covered the \$470 cost. Ice machine stopped making ice and needs to be serviced. We had church work days on October 1 and 8. Grass was planted, monkey grass was split and replanted, Outback was cleaned, flower pots and outdoor furniture was repainted. The bench in front of the church was stained. The walkway in front of the church was stained. Rocks were moved. Moved curbs in front of walkway. A path was made for a granite pathway. Thanks to KB for feeding volunteers on 10/1. AM mentioned that parishioners say that we need more young families and kids to join the church, yet we had 15-20 youth volunteers show up to help the church and there were only 3-4 parishioners there. A ministry opportunity was missed here.

D. Christian Formation Kids - MH reported that Advent materials were ordered for the Kid's Kingdom group. (Activity book with scripture, stickers, games, etc.). Parents will be receiving an additional Advent devotional book purchased from Cokesbury. Youth in KK and the 6-12 class have been notified of the decorating of the Chrismon tree on November 20. They have been invited to join together for pizza and fun. A new family has joined KK. They were members previously. An invitation was extended to another family to participate in KK, but so far, they have not attended. KK will be working with Tom and the choir to perform on All Saint's Sunday. St. Mark's for a Cure has raised \$3470, currently. Three families are signed up to walk on Nov. 5. Chris Abbott wants to know if we are going to support the 1000 Days of Love through ERD this year, as we have done in the previous two years. After much discussion, it was felt that we should try to support ERD at a different time of year, so that it doesn't compete with the cost offset of the poinsettias. It was agreed that during Covid, it was a great alternative, but now it ends up costing the church more for flowers for Christmas. Chris was also wondering about SMES school board and if there was an outside member. A discussion followed about the difficulties and struggles that the school is going through right now, and that there were other pressing issues, as well. The SMES Board is scheduled to meet on the 24th.

E. Christian Formation Adults - AM reported that Brown Bag Bible Study was continuing to meet on Tuesday via Zoom. They will read 1 Peter until Advent, then they will read the first two chapters of Luke. Rob Hamon will continue to hold Sunday Morning CF according to the schedule. During Advent, he will be doing the devotional

provided by Fr. Bob, "Living Well Through Advent." This will be held in the Parish Hall alongside the family Advent activities to hopefully get more people involved.

F. Welcome - CPh was absent, but MH bragged on her observation of how well he welcomed new folks that showed up on Sunday morning.

G. Fellowship - MH had nothing to report other than things seemed to be going smoothly.

H. Outreach - JR reported that the Sewing Sistas were making pillowcases for kids in the Women's Shelter. Some people that can't attend on Wednesdays are working on them from home.

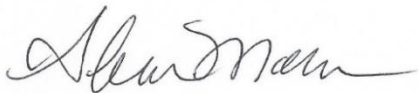
I. Property - MD reported that after we approved the motion to move forward last month, our lawyers made some changes to the document concerning detention. It went back and forth between the concerned parties, eventually leading to a conference call. Today we got an agreement with all of the detention language stricken out, which was better than previous versions. In the end, it was basically what we had approved last month. Rock Moen, Lee Leaman and Rob Hamon meet with the engineer before the end of the year. Michael Hilfiger had been contacted by Logos Prep School, who are interested in purchasing most or all of Parcel 11, as an entrance to the school that they are planning. They are planning on having kids in school in two years. It was agreed that this was worth continuing conversation.

### III. Closing

A. Thank you notes - none

B. Closing Prayer - AM closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Alysoun Marks