

## St. Mark's Vestry Meeting Minutes 11/19/2019

Present: Brad Knecht, Brandon Fletcher, Lee Leaman, Kim Janke, Bettye Newberry, Isabel Gotschall, Chris Abbott, Susan Hylton, Susie Comer, Vince Arnold, and Vestry members elect: Jon Eiche, Charlie Phillips, and Jeanne Reaves. Absent: Faith Fidelis Ojah

Rev. Comer opened the meeting with prayer at 6:30 p.m.

The agenda was approved, with three additions. Brandon Fletcher made the motion, Brad Knecht, seconded the motion.

The minutes for the October meeting were approved pending review.

The vestry was supportive of providing space for therapists in our building, but recommended that the policies for such, and waivers of liability have already been prepared by the vestry in the past. Arrangements for the therapists should follow the guidelines set up under the use plans for "St. Mark's University".

The vestry is supportive of Tom Thompson promoting a choir trip next summer to French Canada, with the proviso that waivers be signed by all that St. Mark's Episcopal Church is not liable, and that all attendant costs, such as traveling with the bells and renting a good keyboard, be rolled into the pricing. Who is the owner of the trip? And is this considered work time for Tom Thompson" were other questions that were asked.

The EYC mission project for the Summer through the cathedral must get commitments from the youth first, before the church will pay the deposit to the cathedral.

The Vestry Retreat for Strategic Planning is scheduled for Saturday, February 1, at the Leaman's Ranch, with Barbara Scheibner leading us. Interested vestry members can stay over the night before, Friday, January 31st. Jon Eiche has offered to cook for us.

Scouts use of the building.

Isobel has agreed to be present on Thursday night, Nov. 21, for a meeting to gauge interest levels of parents. We will be looking for a liaison, who can open the building and be present and close the building when scouts meet. A liaison a necessity and the use of the building by the Scouts is contingent upon it.

### Committee Reports to Vestry

#### Communications

Bettye Newberry reported on the challenges of communicating with those church members who do not use email, and said that Peggy Wyatt has shown interest in being

the person to contact those members. It should be only about 5 or so people. The vestry was supportive of this.

### Financial

Vince Arnold, Treasurer, walked us through the October financial reports, and noted to everyone that the \$15,000 that was moved over from savings into the operating account to help with cash flow should be considered a loan, not income. Kim Janke reported that efforts continue to rid of ourselves of the second disposal bin outside, which is technically for recycling, but is not used appropriately, and is not a cost effective use of our money. Commercial Insurance costs were higher than budgeted, but Brad explained that the insurance was reworked to cover both church and school, but the budget wasn't changed. Susan Hylton reported that the school is waiting to hear what their share is to pay the church. ATT billing remains at zero for the month, as we recoup the over billing from earlier in the year.

Several vestry members requested that pledging church members receive quarterly statements about the status of their giving.

Lee Leaman, Finance Chair, reported that pledges continue to come in, and some have increased, but due to factors in people's lives, moves, deaths, for example, it looks like 2020 pledge income will remain roughly the same as this year. He asked for permission from the vestry to look at the pledges, and to thoughtfully contact those who have not pledged, to ask how they see the church, and ascertain where they stand, and what we can do in that relationship. He also hopes to reach out to some members to help bridge that gap between next year's budget and projected income. Brad Knecht made a motion and Susan Hylton seconded it, and the vestry voted in favor of giving Lee permission to go forward with this work.

### Senior Warden

Brad thanked the vestry for their support and forbearance with his report last month, and said that he felt that the Holy Spirit had been at work in last month's vestry meeting. He reported that the last month's worship services have grown in attendance, and that the fellowship time after each service has been warm and positive for the church.

### Junior Warden

Kim reported that the planning for the extension of Reading Road is 70% complete, and that next Tuesday, 11/26, Kim Janke, Lee Leaman, and other property owners will be meeting with the head of engineering, to discuss what lies ahead. He noted that no final agreements have been reached about compensation for right of way, and that all of that is still on the table. He has stayed in contact with Vincent Morales' office, and will continue to report to the vestry as information becomes available.

The AC unit that cools Room H and the bathrooms on the second floor, has been examined by two sets of AC repair people, and it is clear that the condenser is broken. Kim explained that it is more cost effective to purchase a new outside unit that will be

under warranty for 5 years, than to repair a condenser only, and have just one year of warranty on that part. The vestry voted to purchase an entire Trane 7 ½ ton exterior unit for \$5200, including installation.

#### Formation

Chris Abbott reported her profound gratitude for the 13 volunteers who have helped make Formation possible this Fall, and all 13 will receive thank you notes.

Saints for a cure raised 3,295, and Chris Abbott was very pleased that Tammy Lanier, the new communications head for the Diocese, included a photo of the group in the online Dialog.

She thanked Rob Hamon and Susie Comer for staying for the lock in with the youth.

Chris Abbott has also set up a joint EYC event for our youth and Calvary's youth. On Sunday Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, both groups will spend the morning at the Beacon, attend Christ Cathedral, and then go out to lunch together. She has high hopes for continued shared programming with Calvary.

She reported that Bill and have designed t-shirts for our EYC, and shred them with the vestry. Shirts will be provided to all our youth.

#### Outreach

Isobel Gotschall reported that the remaining funds in the Outreach budget will be split between, Attack poverty (Rosenberg), Lunches of Love, and Fort Bend Women's Shelter. Vestry agreed to add the budgeted but unused funds for Kid's Hope, to that amount. Isobel Gotschall also recommended that Rhonda Yamauchi be a co-chair of the Outreach Committee with Jim Osoba, who is still new to our ministries.

#### Hospitality

Bettye reported that there are 8 teams now to cover Sunday morning fellowship time with wonderful food. December is not covered, however, and she asked for vestry to volunteer to cover these Sundays, and she got a positive response.

#### Priest's Report

Rev. Susie talked about the importance of having working committees for our ministries, that meet regularly to plan for the work of the church, and then committee heads report their work at vestry. The vestry agreed that this is something they are interested in working on.

#### Thank you notes

Will be written to Stacy Krajnovich, Christine Powell, and Barbara Ricklin for providing trunks for the Trunk or Treat, and to Jim Osoba for grilling burgers and Hot Dogs at trunk or Treat..

Brandon Fletcher led the Vestry in Compline.

The meeting ended at 8:27 p.m.

Submitted on behalf of Sue Lane McCulley.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susanne D. Comer", with a small cross-like mark at the end of the signature.

Susanne D. Comer