

## St. Mark's Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

September 15, 2019

**Attending:** Reverend Susie Comer, Bishop Hector Monterroso, Chris Abbott, Faith Fidelis-Ojah, Isobel Gotschall, Susan Hylton, Kim Janke, Brad Knecht, Lee Leaman, Bettye Newberry

**Absent:** Vince Arnold, Brandon Fletcher

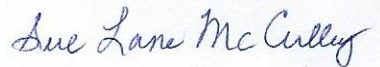
### Opening

1. Opening prayer by Reverend Susie Comer.
2. Reverend Susie Comer called the meeting to order at 1:25 PM.
3. Reverend Susie Comer began the meeting by stating that the church has no debt, that is, everything is paid for. The church sits on seventeen acres that it owns.
4. Reverend Susie Comer reported that the school is in the black and has paid back half of the \$30,00 loan from the church and will pay the remainder during the academic year 2019-2020.
5. Members of the Vestry noted the following accomplishments:
  - Lee Leaman hired a full-time priest and hired Tom Thompson as music director
  - Faith Fidelis-Ojah reiterated that Tom Thompson is an excellent director and a good person.
  - Susan Hylton stated that the school has had a difficult year but has turned around. Difficulties lie ahead, but very dedicated people want to make the school work.
  - Isobel Gotschall named outreach services of the church: tutoring kids, Meals on Wheels, Lunches of Love, Blessing Bags, Sewing Guild that makes items for shelters, and consideration of adding Family Promise.
  - Chris Abbott Kids Kingdom (1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> graders) and Godly Play (6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders) are using the Real and Relevant curriculum. For the last two years, youth reps to Southwest Convocation Diocesan Council have been from St. Mark's.
  - Kim Janke emphasized that St. Mark's exists for the betterment of the community from the street to the inside of the church and praised the family that is St. Mark's.
  - Betty Newberry reminded the Vestry that thirteen people showed up for the first service and now has a good-sized congregation.
  - Brad Knecht commented on the resilience of the church because of road construction that has made access difficult.
6. Members of the Vestry noted the following challenges:
  - Lee Leaman commented that road construction through the church property will cause the church to reconfigure parking and the need to negotiate with the county to build a detention pond somewhere other than on church property.
  - Susan Hylton said that the Strategic Plan has been completed and that funding will be an issue to reach the goals.
  - Isobel Gotschall said that embarking on adding Family Promise to the church's missions will be require research, study, and thought.
  - Chris Abbott said that a plan for fair use of shared use with the school needs to be developed and announced that Rock Moen has been tasked with presenting a plan.
  - Kim Janke noted that it is time for the entire church family to be involved with maximizing the use of St. Mark's property, such as what land might be bought or sold.

Betty Newberry expressed her fervent desire for a new sanctuary.  
Brad Knecht wants to solicit ideas about how to use the campus.

7. Bishop Monterroso made the following comments:
  - He is glad to hear challenges as that means the church is alive.
  - It is good to dream of things wanted in the future.
  - A church needs to think ahead—study projections, etc. and have a clear vision.
  - A church needs to have imagination about what can be.
  - A church needs to investigate new ministries.
  - A church needs to pray for its dreams once the vision is clear.
  - He sees great potential for St. Mark's.
  - He quoted Proverbs 28: If we have no vision, the people will die.
8. Bishop Hector Monterroso closed the meeting at 2:30 with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Lane McCulley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sue Lane McCulley

October 9, 2019