

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Meeting

April 5, 2022

Present: Martha Belury, Cheryl Boop, Mark Drew, Anice Ellis, Betsy Gillespie, Phil Glandon, Judith Grant, Jodi Hess, Barbara Hyre, Julia Johnson-Davis, Bruce Johnson, Barb Keyes, Bill Mayr, Irina Reed, Lucas Skoracki, Roman Skoracki, Leslie Winters, Rev. Vicki Zust,

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Mark Drew. Vicki Zust led the group in a prayer.

MINUTES of the January 19th and March 1st, 2022 meetings were reviewed. Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, the January minutes were approved as written. Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, the minutes of the March meeting were approved as amended.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Vicki was pleased to report that we have lots of baptisms coming up. Vicki will be unable to travel with the Choir to England this summer for their residency. The 8:00 service will continue to be outdoors (or in the parish hall if weather is an issue) for the summer. The question was asked why the service can't be switched to the sanctuary if weather is a problem, and Vicki explained that you can't easily switch from outside to the sanctuary on short notice.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Phil Glandon gave the financial report. Member contributions are ahead of budget. Earnings from investments (reported twice a year) are up from last year. We opted to give the tenant a slight increase in rent and she has renewed for another year. This is good, because turnover is costly. The rental property did incur about \$1,000 in expenses to replace the microwave and some blinds. The church's gas bill is crazy high; usage is about the same, but our rate is up 60% from last year. This is not the right time to lock into a fixed plan, but Phil will keep his eye on it. We have had two organ tunings and a repair, which were unexpected. However, the bottom line is we are better than budget.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Memorial Garden – Bruce Johnson met several times with Jesse from Terra, the landscape firm. Their proposal is to refresh the bluestone paving, reset the benches, remove the tall yews, open up the area with the burning bush, sculpture and plaque and assure that the wiring is adequate so that the lighting can be updated eventually. Bruce feels the quote is reasonable for the amount of work that has been proposed. The Memorial Garden Fund has about \$13,000 in it. The new plan will result in quite a few new burial spots opening up. When Joan Maynard was in charge, the flowers were to be white or purple, and the color palate will remain the same in the refreshed garden. After discussion, it was decided to explore the cost of power washing the wall and some drainage work while Terra has their equipment at the church. Because of power washing and other potential unexpected expenses, upon **motion, seconded and passed**, Vestry approved the proposed cost of the Terra plan with contingency funds not to exceed \$11,000.

There was additional discussion on funding the Memorial Garden. Saint Mark's cannot charge a set fee for interring someone. If we did so, the Memorial Garden would become a cemetery and would need to meet all the applicable requirements. However, almost every family that has someone buried in the Memorial Garden offers a donation. Phil asked about the possibility of having a meeting of people who plan to be buried in Memorial

Garden. Is that a possible avenue to raise money for the Memorial Garden fund? Bruce says he feels the need to address the current issues quickly, and he is not sure how additional funds would be spent.

Invite, Welcome, Connect – Vicki indicated that she plans to start with Connect section of the book. A small group is working on Invite by developing a plan to market to new builds around the church. Welcoming is something we already do well, so connecting new people into the life of the church is where we need to focus. We also need to reconnect existing parishioners as people come back to in-person church. To do this, we need to identify the people in the parish who are natural connectors, and then figure out how to organize and empower those natural connectors. The authors of *Invite, Welcome, Connect* have identified 2 critical elements to getting new people to adopt a new church home. Step one is to have someone from the church follow up within 24 hours of a new person attending their first worship service. Covid has actually helped with that because we have been getting contact information for contact tracing purposes. The second step is to get new people engaged in something beyond worship within the first month of starting to attend church. If a church does both critical things, they retain on average 90% of new people after 2 years. If a church does one of the two things, they keep 50% of new people. If a church does neither, they keep 10% of new people.

Pleasant Litchford Memorial Donation – Vicki thanked Vestry for their unanimous approval of the donation to the Pleasant Litchford Memorial Fund. The Upper Arlington school board asked Vicki to present the \$1000 check at the next school board meeting (6:00pm on May 12th in City Hall). Anyone from Vestry is invited to attend, too. A press release is planned to announce the donation.

Committee and Event Sign Ups – Mark is excited about the new structure for Vestry and the sharing of responsibilities for upcoming events. Vicki reported that everyone got their first and second choice for committees and events. Irina will be the Children's formation liaison, and that team is still looking for a second Vestry member liaison. Anise also needs help with the Mother's Day tea. A very robust group of folks have volunteered to help with facilities, Mark will circulate the Vestry Person of the Week list to everyone.

Celebration of New Ministry Event – Mark reported that Barb Keyes, Martha Belury, Leslie Winters and Judith Grant have all joined him on the team that is planning the event. Planning is going well. A sign-up sheet for volunteers is available and we already have a couple of folks signed up. Both choirs will sing, other UA clergy and civic leaders have been invited, and the Bishop is coming.

Visioning Document – Vicki said that the Visioning Document hasn't changed much from her presentation at the annual meeting. It lines up well with the search committee documents; the three areas of emphasis are building our congregation, building our relationships, and our building/facility. A Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal (BHAG) is to own land adjacent to our building, but there isn't consensus around what to do with the land if we owned it. Vicki will distribute the document to everyone soon. Bruce suggested adding a goal of expanding the endowment of church. Father Chris Thompson would agree with Bruce; he felt our current endowment is about 25% of what it should be. Vicki suggested that we need a vision for why it's important to grow the endowment, and in terms of mechanics, it helps to put endowment growth together with a capital campaign.

UPCOMING

Vestry Retreat – the retreat will begin the evening of May 13th at Vicki's house. On the 14th, the Columbus Vestry and Warden's Day will be held at St Marks. Events will begin at 9:00am and be done by 1:00pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm with a blessing from Vicki.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Barbara Hyre".

Barbara Hyre

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