

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Meeting

June 7, 2022

Present: Martha Belury, Mark Drew, Anice Ellis, Phil Glandon, Judith Grant, Barbara Hyre, Julia Johnson-Davis, Barb Keyes, Bill Mayr, Leslie Winters, Rev. Vicki Zust

Absent: Cheryl Boop, Betsy Gillespie, Jodi Hess, Bruce Johnson, Irina Reed, Lucas Skoracki, Roman Skoracki

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mark Drew. Vicki Zust led Vestry in an opening prayer.

MINUTES of the May 3, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, the minutes were approved as written.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Vicki reported that the church got a nice letter from the Upper Arlington school system, thanking us for the donation to the Pleasant Litchford fund. Vicki extended her thanks to everyone who helped and participated in the Pentecost Picnic. Saint Mark's display at the UA Pride celebration was a big success, and worth every penny spent on the little tchotchkes we gave away. Vicki hired the firm, Remember Marketing, with a grant from the Diocese. Remember Marketing will be working with Saint Mark's through the fall. An early recommendation is to emphasize Facebook, because Facebook allows very targeted advertising and has good analytics. Vicki will be on vacation the Sundays of July 10th and 17th, and is looking for a volunteer to open the church on those Sundays. Bruce Smith will be the supply priest.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

The Library passed a levy and will be undergoing renovation, so they are referring people to us for meeting rooms. This is temporary, and will go away when the community center is built. Three of our four mics are on a frequency that is reserved for emergency personnel. We have a loaner, but we have to buy something new. As we see how media is helping us to recruit and retain new people to the parish, it is important to keep our AV equipment in good shape. We should charge a reasonable fee for groups using our AV equipment to help offset the wear and tear. Our equipment is already mostly out of warranty and is approaching the typical life span of 7-10 years, so we need to start budgeting for replacement equipment. Another AV related "ask" will be to eventually have someone serve as the primary person in charge of live streaming.

We have two options for funding the current equipment need. We could use some money from the adult formation budget, since that's mostly what the equipment would be used

for. If we use \$1000, Vicki feels she will still have enough money in the budget for adult formation for the rest of 2022. The other option would be to use money from the Trinity Fund. There is \$53,000 in the Trinity fund, but typically that is used only for emergencies. Leslie indicated that repairs to the bell tower could wipe out the whole Trinity Fund, so we might need to roll the bell tower repairs into a capital campaign. Best practices say churches should run a capital campaign no more often than every 5-7 years, but Vicki is more comfortable with every 10 years. Further, she would like another 18 months under her belt with the parish before we launch into a big capital campaign. Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, Vestry authorized the expenditure of \$1,000 for AV equipment from the adult formation budget. Upon **motion, seconded, and passed**, Vestry also authorized the expenditure of \$9989 toward AV equipment for new wireless microphones for the sanctuary and a camera system for the parish hall.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Leslie Winters informed Vestry that the new Building Subcommittee had a meeting, and the group seems to be jelling well. There is the potential to repair the wall sconces in the Canterbury Center rather than replace them. The bell tower needs to be caulked and sealed, which will require scaffolding around all 4 sides of the tower. The project will need a big contingency fund because the vendor couldn't inspect all parts of the tower. There doesn't seem to be any significant structural damage yet, but the repairs are expected to be expensive because it will be a very labor-intensive process.

Leslie said that rain leaking in the nave has been going on for several years, but after investigating it, it seems likely the problem is with the drains and downspouts rather than the roof. The contractor actually thinks the roof is in pretty good shape. The estimate to fix all 4 drains/downspouts is \$5,545. Vestry was asked to approve up to \$6,000 to put in a bigger drain pipe and straighten out the "u" in the pipes. The church will still need to get the gutters cleaned every year as a preventive measure. Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, Vestry authorized the expenditure.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Phil Glandon gave the financial update. Saint Mark's posted a net loss, and will probably continue that way for the rest of the year. We are tracking toward a \$75,000 end-of-year loss as planned. More than 42% of budgeted pledges have been collected. The down turn in the stock market is a bit of a concern, and earnings from investments are up in the air. Plate and non-pledged income is behind budget. Rental income will be on budget. Some marketing expenses are still to come.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Invite, Welcome, Connect – Vicki thanked everyone for their input on the Google form. Vicki has met with a couple of new folks joining the church. There are lots of new

families with kids, and several are asking about baptisms. Many people have said that they saw us first on-line, so live streaming is definitely worth it.

Saint Phillips in Uvalde, Texas – Vicki said that Saint Mark’s donated the proceeds of the Pentecost Picnic (after covering our expenses) to Saint Phillip’s. The Texas church is helping the community after the school shooting. Apparently, parents have had to buy new mattresses and bedding because so many children have started wetting the bed in the wake of the shooting.

Review of Short-Term Goals – In November, Vicki laid out some short-term goals she set for herself and the church. Vicki reviewed the goals and the progress toward them. All the “inevitable” goals were completed (prepared a slate for the new Vestry class, hired an organist, finalized a budget). In addition, a five-year vision for St Marks was developed, the nave roof issues have been fixed, as have the skylight problems. Youth group is coming together and has a good plan for next year. Two more vergers were recruited and trained. We don’t yet have processes in places for calendars, purchasing, and scheduling, so this goal will carry over to the next program year.

UPCOMING

July 4th – Vicki says the plans are to be very low key while watching the fireworks from our lawn. It might be a fund raiser next year, depending on how it goes this year.

July 5th Vestry Meeting – Vestry agreed to cancel the July meeting.

2022-2023 Calendar – Vicki asked Vestry to take the proposed calendar home to review.

Book Reading Group – the group is starting up in August and will be reading *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans.

Non-Traditional Giving – it was suggested that we plan an information session on non-traditional giving (IRA distribution, stocks, etc.) for some time in the future. It could be recorded and posted on the internet and written up in the Epistle. Julia Johnson-Davis will get together with Phil Glandon and Kevin Fix to plan something.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm with a blessing from Vicki.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara Hyre