

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Meeting

February 7, 2023

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

Absent: Judith Grant, Bruce Johnson, Lucas Skoracki

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Mark Drew. Vicki Zust led Vestry in an opening prayer. Vicki extended her thanks to all the outgoing Vestry members, the clerk, and the Wardens, and snacks were served.

MINUTES of the January, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Upon **motion**, **seconded** and **passed**, the minutes were approved as written.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Vicki indicated that a lot of January was spent preparing for the annual meeting and putting together the annual report. The newcomers' event was a big success. Invitations were sent to 19 households representing 40 people, all new since last January. In addition to those officially invited, some new people attended that haven't provided their contact info yet. A rough guess was that about 20 new people attended, which was great since the weather didn't cooperate.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Mark said that the 2023 budget was the big lift in January, and extended his thanks to Phil Glandon for all his hard work. Mark encouraged Vestry members to think in terms of making a tactical decision to have a deficit budget again this year. A deficit budget is spending the surplus from past operating budgets as a way to invest in the mission of the church. The \$23,000 growth in pledging seems to support the budgeting decisions of the past couple of years. Mark informed everyone that Vicki was a guest on the Upper Arlington City Manager's podcast, and encouraged everyone to listen to it because Vicki was a rock star! Mark has asked the city to increase handicapped parking on Sunday mornings from 7:00am to noon on Dorset. The city seems amenable to this change.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Leslie Winters mentioned that the new snow removal people are doing a great job. Matt, the new property manager, is getting settled into his new role. The new parish hall tables look great.

FINANCIAL REPORT

There was no update on the January finances yet. The 2022 operating loss is better than budgeted; we did spend more than we took in, but we spent less of the surplus than we planned on. A paper loss of \$63,000 was incurred by the Endowment fund, but other funds have no market risk so there were some interest gains there. The pledging trend is good and going in the right direction. In response to a question, Phil explained that the Trinity Guild is intended to fund big facility repairs that were not anticipated and cannot be covered by the annual operating budget.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

Nominating Committee – Vicki reminded everyone of slate of candidates, and extended her thanks to the nominating committee for their hard work.

Parochial Report – This report must be completed annually by every Episcopal church in the United States. The Diocese calculates our assessment based on these numbers, and reports also help the American Episcopal church maintain its 501C tax status. Vicki explained that some of the various head counts are off. As an example, members who stop attending church without announcing their departure or asking for a letter of transfer need to be culled from the rolls. Fortunately, these inaccuracies don't impact our Diocesan assessment. The counts should have been revised on an ongoing basis (the numbers carry forward every year) and a major clean-up of the erroneous counts will be undertaken in the future. After a review of the report, upon **motion, seconded and passed**, Vestry approved the report as amended.

Endowment Trustees – according to the by-laws, people can't be both a Vestry member and an Endowment Fund Trustee. Kevin Fix is stepping off as Endowment Fund Trustee so that he can run for Junior Warden. Dot Yeager has agreed to fill Kevin's unexpired term. Jay Wilcox has agreed to serve another term, and Mark will fill a trustee position in his role as immediate past Senior Warden. Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, Vestry approved these appointments.

Clerk and Treasurer Appointments - Upon **motion, seconded and passed**, Vestry approved the appointment of Phil Glandon as Treasurer and Jody Porreca as Clerk.

By-law Revisions – Vicki reminded everyone that the proposed by-law revisions were presented to Vestry in November, and the mark up is available on-line. The revisions will be voted on at the Annual Meeting by the parish. One notable change is the proposal to appoint the Clerk and Treasurer at the Vestry meeting immediately prior to the annual meeting each year.

UPCOMING

Annual Meeting – We will be serving Canterbury Choir subs, chips, and cookies. There is a contested election this year, so Vestry members were asked to help collect in-person ballots (Zoom attendees can vote in the Zoom chat).

Shrove Tuesday – Mark's Men are eager to host the pancake supper and have asked some of the youth to act as servers.

Evensong Reception – Julia Johnson-Davis asked for volunteers to help plan and stage the event. People to set up and clean up are especially needed. Martha Belury and Anice Ellis offered to assist.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm with a blessing from Vicki.

Respectfully Submitted,



Barbara Hyre