

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes, August 6, 2024, 7:30 PM

Attendance: Dwight Anstaett, Martha Belury, Cheryl Boop, Steve Brindza, Kevin Fix, Betsy Gillespie, Phil Glandon, Brenda Hammersley, Bruce Johnson, Norman Jones, Anna Marquardt, Ted Meyers, Jody Porreca, Park Zimpher, , Vicki Zust

Digital Attendance: Michael Bowman

Not Present: Barb Keyes

Welcome and Opening Prayer: Rev. Vicki Zust

Call to Order: Cheryl Boop: Senior Warden 7:30 PM

1. Approval of Previous Minutes: (as amended)
2. Reports:
 - i. Rector's Report (Vicki)
 - a. Things have been going well through the summer. There was a large attendance for the last Sunday in June, 120 at the 10:30 service.
 - b. The Hawaii pilgrimage trip was wonderful.
 - c. Hundreds of visitors during Farmer's market.
 - d. Planning for formation in the coming year is underway.
 - e. New Bishop is affirming Vicki's position on planning workshops for the convention. Also, Vicki will chair an ad hoc group to help different congregations to connect with each other. Vicki is on the commission of ministry.
 - f. The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women was very beautiful.
 - g. In the next month we will have the Labor Day Bake Sale and the Fall kick-off.
 - h. Tremont teacher appreciation bags were delivered.
 - ii. Senior Warden's Report (Cheryl)
 - a. Farmer's Market has gone well.
 - b. 8:00 outdoor services have been well received.
 - c. Cheryl's brother-in-law passed away. She appreciates everyone's kindness.
 - d. We continue to grow.
 - iii. Junior Warden's Report (Kevin)
 - a. It's been quiet in the facilities side of things.
 - b. The drinking fountain has been removed.
 - c. Sticking patio door issue has been resolved. Be careful when closing it if you're the last one out.
 - d. Steve Bigley has stepped back from AV work, and we will need to hire a firm to help with this. (Internet security etc.) We have a proposal. Fee is \$380 a month, which is a retainer to monitor the security and back up connections. Also, there is

two hours of on-site work available per month at \$100 per hour if not pre-paid; \$90 if we do. This work has previously done by volunteers.

- iv. Treasurer's Report (Phil)
 - a. Financial report is up to date. Phil went through his report.
 - b. We are below budget on expenses, and as expected on our income.
 - c. We received an auditor's letter assuring that our completed audit will be received by the Diocese by the end of August.
- 3. Discussion Items
 - i. Fall/Winter & Vestry Person of the Week Sign Ups (Vicki)
 - a. Vicki went over the sign ups, which have been successfully completed after a few clarifications and additions.
 - ii. Affirming Congregations (Dwight)
 - a. Dwight participated in a webinar on May 20 that addressed questions about affirming all visitors to our church, especially the LGBTQ community. This information could be presented to the Vestry. Several books on the subject were recommended.
 - b. One recommendation is to have gender neutral restrooms.
 - c. There should be a resolution to be voted on at next month's meeting. There will be a draft presented to go forward with this at the next meeting.
 - iii. Emergency Preparedness (Ted & Kevin)
 - a. There is a 4-5 page document on our website regarding emergency procedures. It will be shared with the congregation and key leaders. All Vestry members should see and read it. Communication between groups, ie parents and teachers.
- 4. Capital Campaign First Impressions – Rick Vilardo
 - a. Works with Horizons Stewardship. He consults with churches around the country. He does:
 - i. Strategic planning and envisioning.
 - ii. Annual campaigns.
 - iii. Capital campaigns.
 - iv. Stewardship campaigns.
 - b. Tonight, we are here for a feasibility study. Vicki discussed the growth in Central Ohio and the fact that there are few Episcopal Churches. This is part of the reason we are seeing growth at St. Mark's. We are in a good place and approaching our 75th anniversary.
 - c. There are issues that need to be addressed to prepare for the next generation at St. Mark's.
 - i. Discussion began with the problems with our bell tower. Fixing it is \$250 - \$300,000.
 - ii. There are needs in the children's education areas. A lot of maintenance such as painting and flooring needs to be done. The lighting is not adequate in the parish hall. The bathrooms need to be redone, for gender reasons, and for caregiver issues. The rough estimate is between \$500,000 to \$1,000,000.
 - iii. How do we present ourselves to the community? We need to upgrade landscaping and outdoor space.

- iv. The kitchen needs redone.
 - v. Have a piano in the sanctuary.
 - vi. Upgrading windows with energy efficient options. All of the H-Vac systems need to be replaced. They are all old, and there are four separate systems that need to be more efficient. The boiler dates to the 1950's. There are many projects that need to be done to update.
- d. The whole thing will be about 2.5 million dollars. The first million dollars are for things that are necessary but no one will see them.
- e. Sept 8 at 12:30 and September 10 at 7:00PM will have meetings with groups from the church to gather some initial observations and reactions.
- i. We answered 4 questions on index cards
 - 1. What excites you about this case?
 - 2. What concerns you about the project?
 - 3. What additional information do you need?
 - 4. What new ministries could we do, what current ministries can we improve?
 - ii. We had one minute to answer the question and a couple of minutes to discuss in small groups. The index cards were collected to be tabulated.
 - iii. This process will be repeated in two other focus groups, then with the whole congregation.
 - iv. A gift chart was shared that outlines a total of 142 donors giving 2.5 million dollars.
5. Open Discussion – Parking Lot Issues
- a. The Sanctuary was very clean after the deep cleaning.
 - b. Anna offered to be assigned to a project. She will help with Lessons and Carols.
 - c. Discussed logistics for the funeral on Saturday. Parking will be an issue. The library lot is available.
6. Blessing and Adjourn: 9:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jody Porreca, clerk