

## Vestry Minutes

Draft Version

Oct. 16, 2006  
Adams Room

**Present:** Clergy and staff: Shearon Williams, Susan Block  
Wardens: Mike Townsend, Charley Donnelly  
Vestry Members: Don Mosher, Burton Reist, Lisa Sotir Ozkan, Bruce Sherman, David Willson,  
Officers: Don Lipscomb, Pete Carlson, Hank Donnelly (acting register)  
Absent: Eileen Blumenthal, Kathryn Gerhard, Margaret Wood, Susan Thigpen, Michael Knipe

### **Action Items and Discussion**

#### **1. Register**

Mike announced that Nadine Hathaway had resigned as St. Mark's register, and encouraged members to suggest names for a replacement. He said he was inclined to ask a woman in order to maintain gender diversity on the Vestry.

#### **2. Minutes**

Burton moved to approve the minutes of the September meeting, and the motion was adopted.

#### **3. Woman to Woman Charter**

Doris Burton was present to explain the proposed charter for the Woman to Woman group. She explained that the group had received a substantial contribution, and so under parish precedent needed a charter for decision making.

Discussion focused on the four persons who would be co-convenors of the group. Don Mosher asked why the selection would be by co-option by current members of the panel rather than election, while Pete asked why there were four co-convenors rather than one. Doris responded that the selection process was similar to that used by Christian Education, and that it is easier to recruit four people to share a demanding job than one person to do it all.

Don Mosher moved approval of the charter, and the motion was adopted.

Doris also noted that she and Kitty Donnelly would be working to raise money for a second St. Mark's sign. Mike pointed out that any fundraising must be approved by the Vestry.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Pete reported that the current financial situation was marked by wide swings in income and expenses from month to month. He noted that the cost of

installation of a new phone system in Baxter House had bumped up spending in September.

### **5. Canvass Report**

Canvass co-chair Greg Niblett described the results of the current canvass as “responsive but not robust.” He analyzed the latest results in comparison with last year, and also passed out statistics on unnamed individual pledges. He noted that about 25 canvass dinners had been held, and reported that the feedback was positive.

### **6. Junior Warden’s Report**

Charley reported on plans for renovating the library, which is just getting underway. He estimated the cost of the project at about \$15,000, and promised to get at least three estimates from contractors. Charley also asked for Vestry guidance on funding for the undertaking, which would draw down much of the money in the Building Fund for the remainder of the year, assuming that \$20,000 is carried forward into 2007.

### **7. Program Updates**

Bruce Sherman reported that a search was underway under the direction of Music Director Keith Reas to find a new Children’s Choir director.

Bruce also reported on the findings of a group formed to discuss the future of the Gospel newsletter, which some say has become outmoded as a result of increased use of e-mail and the expanded Sunday Bulletin. The group is leaning toward shifting toward a magazine format, which would be distributed by mail, and a new editor is being recruited.

### **8. Vestry Retreat**

Mike identified the following issues as possible topics for the upcoming Vestry retreat: the Sabbatical and preparation for Paul’s return; parish demographics; Sunday morning scheduling; and identifying new leaders. Vestry members also briefly discussed the question of whether to have a facilitator for the meeting.

### **9. Sabbatical Update**

Mike reported that Paul and Pontheolla are currently in London. He said the guest preacher program was going well, and members agreed that the program was bringing visitors and excitement to St. Mark’s.

### **10. Other Updates**

Shearon said that it was difficult to get all the needed hospital/home visits and other pastoral duties done in Paul’s absence, but that the Caregiver Group was helping out.

Burton noted that a parents’ group was looking at ways of integrating children more into Sunday services.

## **11. What's New, etc.**

**Mike:** Sending honoraria of at least \$350 to speakers in the Guest Preacher program.

**Susan Block:** Trying to collect all Vestry materials to give to Paul.

**Burton:** Special Pub tickets have been printed to give to newcomers.

**Lisa:** Need to keep 2007 pledge forms in newcomers' greeter case year-round.

**Burton:** Greeter's table needs more attention.

Difficult to recruit volunteers for jobs in worship service.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 following a closing prayer by Don Lipscomb.

Respectfully submitted,

Hank Donnelly  
Acting Register