

**MINUTES OF ST. MARK'S VESTRY MEETING
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, WASHINGTON, DC
March 17, 2013**

PRESENT:

- Clergy: Paul Abernathy, Rector; Justi Schunior, Associate Rector
- Wardens: Grady Hedgespeth, Senior Warden; Michael Summey, Junior Warden
- Vestry Members: Gwen Dillard, Fritz Henn, Amy Kovac-Ashley, Charlotte Murray, Nora Rumpf, Jim Steed, Mary Thuell, Pam Lacey, Janet Vail
- Officers: Penny Hansen, Treasurer; Eric Fiala, Assistant Treasurer; Mary Cooper, Register; Charlie Rupp, Manciple; Michael Knipe, Co-Counsel
- Absent: Angela Bradley, Co-Counsel
- Visitors: Sally Garr Brodhead, Jane Rutherford, Raiford Gaffney

The Opening Prayer was offered by Vestry Member Jim Steed.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the February regular meeting and the special meeting on March 3 following the Annual Parish Meeting were distributed electronically in advance. Vestry member Jim Steed moved and Vestry member Mary Thuell seconded that the minutes be **APPROVED.**

OUTREACH REPORT

Sally Garr Brodhead and Jane Rutherford, representing the Outreach Board, distributed several documents related to their group's work. They discussed the history of outreach at St. Mark's over the decades, noting that clergy support has grown significantly in recent years. The Community Engagement Committee began in 2009 to identify community needs and determine how our renovated building could serve those in need. The area in which they did their research is roughly Ward 6, or approximately a two-mile radius around the church.

They found that, in that area: 41-70% of the children live in poverty; non-profit organizations are struggling to find affordable space; and there are great food needs in the area. The Board sponsored a Food Summit to bring together the groups offering food services in the community, to help them learn about each other's work and give each other support.

At a Board retreat, the group noted that St. Mark's has always partnered with other groups rather than creating programs and has always had a small budget. Noting that the groups doing food ministries had not known about each other's work before the Food Summit, they concluded that St. Mark's could act as a catalyst to bring groups together to maximize efforts as well as providing funds and volunteers.

Similar sentiments around St. Mark's serving in a "convener" role had been expressed by other groups surveyed by the Community Engagement Committee.

Observing that there is a lot of expertise in the congregation that can be mobilized for action, the Board decided to take an asset inventory in the congregation to enable making connections with communities of need. Projects supported will be those that focus on the whole person rather than on relief or "band aid" approaches.

In a discussion of the meaning of the expression "social justice", the Rector stated that Jesus embodied benevolence and fairness and that justice speaks to the embodiment of fairness, adding that the Church is about challenging the status quo.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

The Senior Warden nominated the following people to fill various offices and positions in the parish:

Manciple:	Charlie Rupp
Co-Counsels:	Michael Knipe and Angelina Bradley
Money Counter	Suella Henn

Vestry member Mary Thuell moved and Vestry member Pam Lacey seconded, with the Vestry concurring, that these nominations be **APPROVED.**

Senior Warden Hedgespeth requested that each Vestry Member and Officer commit to attending the 5 p.m. service at least twice a year to represent the Vestry. Vestry member Amy Kovac-Ashley suggested formalizing Vestry attendance with the offering of a Vestry Greeting. Vestry member Lacey requested that the Register circulate a sign-up roster.

VISION 2020

The Senior Warden reported that solicitation for funds is going on now from newcomers, those who have not yet pledged, and those who have indicated willingness to increase their pledges. Several Vestry members requested monthly updates on fund-raising.

Construction cannot begin until the necessary permits are received from the District government. The process of securing permits is underway.

The new Vestry liaisons to the Vision 2020 Steering Committee are Nora Rumpf and Fritz Henn.

BUDGET FOR 2012

The Treasurer distributed several document in advance of the meeting, including a proposed budget. The big increases in budgeted expenditures are for (1) the cost of the trailers necessitated by the sale of Baxter House and (2) interest on the line of credit (starting in August). The Finance Committee has recommended that these items be covered by the parish budget rather than Vision 2020 since they replace maintenance and utility costs the parish would have incurred had we retained Baxter House.

The proposed income budget includes 100% of pledges received to date, on the assumption that new pledges received during the year will cover any pledges that are lost due to economic conditions or

departures from the parish. It was agreed that there would be a half-year review of the budget in July and another review in September, with adjustments made then as needed.

Vestry member Lacey moved, Vestry member Steed seconded, and the Vestry concurred that the staff be given a one-time bonus of 2% of annual salary (non-housing allowance related), to be paid as quickly as possible. On a show of hands the vote was **APPROVED.**

Vestry member Steed moved and Vestry member Lacey seconded that the recommended expenditures presented in the proposed budget be approved as amended by the previous resolution related to staff salaries. With Vestry member Vail abstaining, the motion was **APPROVED.**

CLERGY HOUSING ALLOWANCES

Vestry member Lacey moved, Vestry member Vail seconded, and the Vestry concurred that the following resolution be **APPROVED.**

Whereas, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income (in computing federal income taxes) a church-designated allowance paid to him as part of his compensation to the extent used by him for actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and

Whereas, the Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy is compensated by St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill, exclusively for the services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill, does not provide the Reverend Abernathy with a rectory, therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that \$42,000 (forty-two thousand dollars and no cents) (33.6%) of the total compensation paid to the Rev. Abernathy for calendar year 2013 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance, and be it further

Resolved, that, after the date of this resolution, should the Vestry approve a cost of living adjustment to, or increase in, the Rev. Abernathy's total compensation, the Rector's Housing budget line will be the same percentage of the revised total compensation.

Vestry member Vail moved, Vestry member Henn seconded, and the Vestry concurred that the following resolution be **APPROVED.**

Whereas, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income (in computing federal income taxes) a church-designated allowance paid to her as part of her compensation to the extent used by her for actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and

Whereas, the Reverend Rebecca Justice Schunior is compensated by St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill, exclusively for the services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill, does not provide the Reverend Schunior with a rectory, therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that \$21,600 (twenty one thousand six hundred dollars and no cents) (33.2%) of the total compensation paid to the Rev. Schunior for calendar year 2013 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance, and be it further

Resolved, that, after the date of this resolution, should the Vestry approve a cost of living adjustment to, or increase in, the Rev. Schunior's total compensation, the Associate Rector's Housing budget line will be the same percentage of the revised total compensation.

SHRINE MONT

The Senior Warden asked for volunteers to take on various tasks related to the annual parish retreat at Shrine Mont the second weekend in June. Vestry member Steed volunteered to help as needed. Vestry member Thuell offered to manage housing. A Comfort Team is still needed.

APRIL VESTRY RETREAT

The opening evening will be at Janet Vail's home. A location for the Saturday meeting is still being sought.

WINGED LION PUB

The Senior Warden announced that John Wilson has agreed to be the new Pub Steward.

The Closing Prayer was offered by Mary Thuell.

Submitted by
Mary Anderson Cooper, Register