

St. Mark's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Capitol Hill

3rd & A Sts SE,
Washington, DC



Minutes of the Vestry Meeting Sunday, July 17, 2016 1:15 p.m.

Present:

Wardens: Junior Warden Doris Burton

Vestry Members: Stephen Dalzell, Stephanie Deutsch, Fritz Henn, Doug Jackson, Beth Mahood, Christina White, Karen Wiedemann

Clergy: The Rev. Michele Morgan, Priest-in-Charge The Rev. Justi Schunior, Associate Rector

Staff: Caroline McReynolds-Adams

Officers: Mary Anderson Cooper, Register; Jack Burton, Manciple; Andrew Stafford, Treasurer

Absent: Peter Sherer, Senior Warden; Vestry Members Thia Hamilton and Martha Huizenga; Counsel Michael Knipe

Visitor: Raiford Gaffney

The Opening Prayer was offered by Steve Dalzell.

Members of the Vestry shared personal news and vacation plans.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE MEETING: Fritz Henn moved, seconded by Karen Wiedemann, the Vestry concurring unanimously, that the minutes of the June Vestry Meeting be **APPROVED**

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's Report was distributed electronically. The Treasurer reported that pledge income is coming in about as well as it did last year, but the reduction in attendance numbers continues to be a concern.

HOUSING ALLOWANCE FOR THE PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

The following resolution concerning the housing allowance for the Priest-in-Charge was moved by Karen Wiedemann, seconded by Fritz Henn, and unanimously **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 Michele Helen Morgan beginning June 1, 2016, is compensated by St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill, Washington DC, exclusively for the services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill, Washington DC does not provide the Reverend Michele Morgan with a church-supplied lodging, therefore it is hereby

Resolved that 30% of the total compensation paid to the Reverend Michele Morgan for the August 1-December 31, 2016 term is hereby designated to be a housing allowance.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Caroline McReyolds-Adams reported that 14 youth and three adults went to New York City for the high school service trip, which had a hunger and homelessness focus. She noted that the participants were energized about future activities to combat these social ills.

She reported that Summer Sunday School attendance is lower than anticipated but the program is going well. Five middle schoolers did a summer project with an environmental stewardship focus at a sleep-away camp. There will be a lock-in in the fall.

VIGIL FOR VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

Justi Schunior reported that there will be another vigil on December 14 at St. Mark's. PVC pipes bearing the names of gun violence victims will be attached to the fence surrounding the garden and there will be tee shirts with the names of victims. Volunteers are needed to help with the event on December 14.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There was extensive discussion of the wording of the invitation to communion in the June 26 bulletin. There will be a parish meeting in September (rescheduled from an earlier-proposed July date) to discuss this issue. All opinions are welcome, but the Priest-in-Charge pointed out that the final decision resides with the clergy.

There was a lengthy discussion about how the Book of Common Prayer and other liturgical resources are used at St. Mark's.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

The Junior Warden reported that the repair of the stained glass windows has been held up by permitting issues and will likely start in the fall.

So far the parish has received \$14,000 in rental income for this year, against a budget of \$20,000. A conference occurring in September will occupy space for several days, at a charge of \$10,000.

The internet upgrade has been completed, enabling people to get online quickly all over the building. Beth Mahood agreed to send a note to Charlie Rupp to thank him for overseeing this project.

ALCOHOL POLICY

The Vestry reviewed a redraft of the proposed policy concerning the serving of alcoholic beverages on church property and at church gatherings. A new item was added to the earlier draft regarding the serving of alcohol at child-centered events such as Baptism celebrations. A provision banning the serving of alcoholic beverages at meetings where church business is being conducted was amended to ban such service while such business is conducted.

The Priest-in-Charge asked that the entire document be reviewed by a lawyer prior to the next Vestry meeting to make sure that St. Mark's is not placed in legal jeopardy by any provision.

MEDIA POLICY

The Vestry continued its discussion of photography at parish worship services and other events. While there was disagreement over the use of photographs to publicize church activities, there was general agreement that there should be no photography during Children's Chapel and in classrooms and that photography during services is strongly discouraged, unless permission has been granted in advance by the clergy.

Members of the Vestry were asked to edit the photography document on the Google Drive and come to the next Vestry meeting prepared to vote on the policy.

Christina White asked that Vestry members do selfies holding up a sign saying (in a few words) what draws them to St. Mark's. These will become part of the new website.

There was a question about how new policies are distributed to the parish. This matter will be discussed with the people managing the website.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson Cooper, Register