



Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
December 18, 2016
1:15 p.m.

Present:

Wardens: Senior Warden Peter Sherer; Junior Warden Doris Burton

Vestry Members: Steve Dalzell, Stephanie Deutsch, Thia Hamilton, Fritz Henn, Martha Huizenga, Doug Jackson, Beth Mahood, Karen Wiedemann, Christina White

Absent: Jack Burton (Manciple), Michael Knipe (Counsel), Mary Anderson Cooper (Register)

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 by the Senior Warden, Peter Sherer. The opening prayer was offered by Fritz Henn.

The November Vestry meeting was held in Executive Session; therefore, no minutes were recorded.

After check-in the Vestry proceeded to its brief agenda.

At last Tuesday's Warden's Meeting, the leadership (including Rev. Morgan) discussed the possibility of the church being open January 20, 2017 for the Inauguration and housing visitors for the Women's March on January 21, 2017.

Several questions opened the discussion: (1) Does the March have a purpose? (2) Should we separate the discussion of day hospitality from that of offering over-night accommodations for the March? (3) Can we host people overnight? (4) How would visitors find us? (4) What about security of the building with strangers staying overnight?

Fritz offered to coordinate housing for those coming for the March. It was reported that a website, www.couchsurfing.com, is listed on the March's website for those looking for accommodations.

The Junior Warden reported we were open for both of the two prior Inaugurations but that the coordinator of at least one of those is no longer a parishioner so we have no guidelines re how that was handled. She also announced that she had polled the Fabric Committee on the subject of overnight

guests and in particular the number they think we might accommodate. The Committee was supportive of the idea with some reservations:

1. Have at least two St. Mark's parishioners stay with them as hosts and to troubleshoot (find extra toilet paper, etc.);
2. Limit the guests to Baxter Hall since they may be staying Saturday night; people sleeping in the nave might be problematic;
3. Adams would be complicated by the presence of the AA meeting and the Saturday a.m. yoga class.

She did report that one member was opposed to supporting the March as it may be perceived as opposing a duly-elected President. She noted Chris Berendes was approached by a church interested in housing for a group coming for the March. Fabric would address issues of security for overnight guests.

Doris also reported that Michele is very interested in offering sanctuary for those minorities/immigrants/LGBT workers on the Hill who may feel marginalized by the presence of demonstrators who oppose them. Peter noted that he does not feel the same concern and is opposed to doing this.

There was some discussion of what is meant by "sanctuary". Steve offered the idea that we might split the event with the Lutherans: one offering sanctuary and the other hospitality. There was some reluctance to offer either of these and one Vestry member commented that if we aren't going to offer both, we shouldn't offer either.

There was further discussion of what hospitality might include beyond coffee, tea, and shelter from the cold. There was also a call for an action plan for security regardless of which is offered.

Peter proposed that we recruit parishioners to work for 2-hour-shifts, both days, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both January 20 and 21, 2017, assuming we can gather a volunteer corps. Steve seconded the motion. Fritz agreed to recruit a few parishioners who would be willing to open their homes for emergency housing. It was generally agreed that we not use the word "sanctuary".

Doris requested we set the date for the annual Vestry dinner. Wednesday, March 15 was chosen. The dinner will be in Baxter Hall. We do not have a coordinator for the dinner (tbd).

Stephanie moved the Vestry go into Executive Session. Doug seconded the motion. The question was called and the motion carried.

Beth Mahood offered the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris M. Burton, Junior Warden
Register pro-tempore

Next Meetings:

Wednesday, January 11 at 6:30 (home of Stephaie Deutsch)

Wednesday, January 18 at 6:30 (snow date)

Monday, January 23 (time and location)

Sunday, January 29 at 1:15 (Elder's Room): Regular meeting (budget)