

St. Mark's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Capitol Hill

3rd & A Sts SE,
Washington, DC



Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
Sunday, June 19, 2016
1:15 p.m.

Present:

Wardens: Peter Sherer, Senior Warden

Vestry Members: Stephen Dalzell, Thia Hamilton, Martha Huizenga, Christina White, Karen Wiedemann

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

Absent: Junior Warden Doris Muller-Burton; Vestry Members Stephanie Deutsch, Fritz Henn, Doug Jackson, Beth Mahood,; The Rev. Michele, Morgan; The Rev. Justi Schunior

Visitor: Chuck Divine

The Opening Prayer was offered by Jack Burton.

The Minutes of the May Vestry Meeting were approved by voice vote.

Members of the Vestry shared personal and professional information.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that income through April was on target with the budget but that May's income was considerably lower.

The Auditor has reported that St. Mark's is in essentially good shape, although an area of possible concern is the decrease in Sunday attendance reflected in 2015 figures.

By a unanimous voice vote, the Audit was

APPROVED.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

All-Parish Retreat at Claggett: The Senior Warden reported that 146 people attended the retreat, including children. A survey of attendees showed general agreement that such a gathering should happen annually. The most significant problem identified was the noisiness of the break-out rooms,

which can be addressed by having fewer small groups in the dining hall and utilizing other spaces instead. The children's activities were rated as excellent.

There was discussion of holding the gathering later in June, given that the usual second weekend conflicts with a number of events such as the annual Pride Parade, key events in the Little League season, and graduations, which keep some people from attending.

Photography Policy: Steve Dalzell presented a draft policy. Karen Weidemann noted that some soloists with the choir don't want to be photographed while they are singing. It was suggested that speakers and performers be asked prior to services whether they object to being photographed. Christina White pointed out that this proposed policy is contrary to the way the world is moving, given the availability of digital media, and that it is inconsistent with the parish's desire to be dynamic.

Michael Knipe observed that the Diocese recommends not being overly proscriptive. Thia Hamilton said that many people don't mind having their pictures taken but don't want them posted. Jack Burton suggested that the policy be that no photos be taken during services without prior permission from the clergy and that pictures not be posted on the website unless the subject signs a release form

Senior Warden Sherer observed that there should always be a presumption of privacy during worship and that permission should be asked even for group shots. He recommended that the Vestry postpone the establishment of a policy until the next meeting. In the meantime, a sign will be put on the doors saying photography is not allowed during worship services, with a note also being put in the bulletin.

Vestry Members were asked to review Vestry Member Dalzell's draft and send proposed edits to Christina White for discussion at the next Vestry meeting.

New Website: The Senior Warden requested that Vestry Members look at the new website and get their comments to him right away.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

In the absence of the Junior Warden, Manciple Jack Burton presented her printed report and commented on it. He said that work on the rain garden has been delayed by permitting issues and the start of work on the repair of the stained glass windows is also delayed until August.

The Vestry discussed the document distributed by the Junior Warden setting forth the proposed policies regarding the use of gifts and bequests for projects related to historic preservation. Such gifts and projects must be approved by the Historic Preservation Committee first, followed by the Fabric Committee, with final approval by the Vestry. The proposal was unanimously **APPROVED.**

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

The report was submitted electronically. With appreciation for excellent work being done by the Director of Youth and Family Ministries and the committees that support her, the report was unanimously **APPROVED.**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Karen Weidemann reported that the Committee plans to relaunch the use of nametags. They are also setting up a system of newcomer greeters so that the people who are handing out bulletins and hymnals can concentrate on that task without having to try to identify newcomers at the same time. People have signed up to provide food after the 9 a.m. service through the end of the year. More volunteers are needed after the 11:15 service.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Christina White reported that the website will probably be functioning fully by the end of June. Andrew Stafford suggested having a place where parishioners can make suggestions regarding the website.

The Closing Prayer was offered by Thia Hamilton.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson Cooper, Register