

St. Mark's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Capitol Hill

3rd & A Sts SE,
Washington, DC



Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
Sunday, January 29, 2017
1:00 p.m.

Present:
Clergy: The Rev. Michele Morgan, Priest-in-Charge
Wardens: Peter Sherer, Senior Warden
Doris Muller-Burton, Junior Warden
Vestry Members: Stephen Dalzell, Stephanie Deutsch, Thia Hamilton, Martha Huizenga, Doug Jackson, Beth Mahood, Karen Wiedemann
Officers: Martha Huizenga, Treasurer; Mary Anderson Cooper, Register
Absent: Vestry Member Fritz Henn; The Rev. Justi Schunior, Associate Rector; Counsel Michael Knipe; Manciple Jack Burton
Visitor: Raiford Gaffney

The Priest-in-Charge presided at the meeting.

The Opening Prayer was offered by Stephanie Deutsch.

Minutes of the December 2016 meeting were approved electronically prior to the meeting.

It was announced that Vestry Member Christina White has resigned from the Vestry. The one year remaining in her term will be filled at the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

The Senior Warden moved that Assistant Treasurer Martha Huizenga be elected Treasurer. The Junior Warden seconded the motion, which was unanimously **APPROVED.**

The Senior Warden reported that negotiations with the National Capital Bank concerning the remaining balance on our loan had gone very well. The interest rate will be 4.5%, to run for five years, with a 25 year payoff period. There will be no penalty for prepayment. It is the Vestry's expectation that the debt will be paid off in its entirety within the five year period. There will be a \$1,000 charge for the legal work required to combine the documents related to the deed into a single one.

A proposal regarding planned giving was distributed prior to the meeting. The Junior Warden moved approval of the proposal, seconded by several Vestry members, and the plan was **APPROVED.**

An updated Charter for the Stewardship Committee was distributed prior to the meeting. The Senior Warden expressed his appreciation to Michael Townsend for updating the language and moved approval of the revised charter. Martha Huizenga seconded, and the motion was **APPROVED.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

BUDGET: Martha Huizenga distributed a Treasurer's Report and proposed budget electronically before the meeting. She reported that income for the end of 2016 had been better than expected, resulting in a deficit of \$3,545 rather than the higher figure anticipated. She said that the Finance Committee had met several times to struggle with the budget issues caused by the fact that we are now paying off a mortgage. A very few people who pledged in 2016 have not yet renewed pledges for 2017, and Vestry members will be asked to follow up with them. Every possible economy has been made; however, unless membership and pledges increase, it may be necessary to realign staff. Very careful management has led to significant administrative savings, but there will still be a deficit of nearly \$19,000 in 2018. Vestry Member Wiedemann moved and Vestry Member Jackson seconded, the Vestry concurring, that the proposed budget be **APPROVED.**

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

The Junior Warden reported that repairs to the terrazzo will take place within the next week. There will be an indoor cleaning day on February 20. The elevator has passed inspection.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vestry Member Dalzell reported that planning is proceeding on the ski trip, the Nicaragua trip, and summer activities. The Gospel reading for each Sunday is now being sent to parents so that they can share it with their children, to prepare them for what they will hear in church the next day.

NEW BUSINESS

BYLAWS AMENDMENT: The Junior Warden noted that a resolution, presented at last year's Annual Parish Meeting, will be on the agenda at this year's Meeting. It would change the terms for Junior and Senior Wardens from the current one year to two years, with the option to extend for a third year. She noted that it has been posted on the website and requested this Vestry approve its presentation in March. **APPROVED.**

BISHOP'S VISIT: The Priest-in-Charge reported that Bishop Budde will visit St. Mark's on Sunday, April 30 to conduct baptism and confirmation at a single morning service and install The Rev. Michele Morgan as the twelfth Rector of St. Mark's at a 5 p.m. service.

WHAT'S WORKING/WHAT'S NOT

Concern was expressed about how few people have so far offered themselves as candidates for Vestry.

The Vestry expressed great gratitude to several people for outstanding service and members agreed to write letters thanking: Michael Knipe, Kenn Allen and Victoria Doyon for their work in providing hospitality to people who came to St. Mark's to rest during the Inauguration and protest the day after; Michael Townsend for revising the Stewardship Charter; John Edwards for work on the mortgage; and Agatha Tan for her leadership at the pop-up meeting on refugees.

The Closing Prayer was offered by Thia Hamilton.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson Cooper, Register