

St. Mark's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Capitol Hill

3rd & A Sts SE,
Washington, DC



Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
Sunday, May 15, 2016
12:30 p.m.

Present:

Wardens: Peter Sherer, Senior Warden
Doris Muller-Burton, Junior Warden

Vestry Members: Stephen Dalzell, Stephanie Deutsch, Thia Hamilton, Martha Huizenga,
Beth Mahood, Christina White, Karen Wiedemann

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

Clergy: The Rev. Michele Morgan, Priest-in-Charge

Absent: Vestry Members Doug Jackson and Fritz Henn; Counsel Michael Knipe; The Rev.
Justi Schunior

The Opening Prayer was offered by Beth Mahood.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved electronically prior to the meeting.

CHECK IN: Vestry members shared personal and professional news.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's Report was circulated electronically in advance of the meeting. Andrew Stafford pointed out that the main difference between this year and last year at the same point is that we are now at full staff and the Vision 2020 budget has been rolled into the parish budget and is no longer a separate account. Pledge income is coming in well and is on target for this time of year. The transition in accounting practices is proceeding well and is approaching completion.

The Junior Warden expressed appreciation for all the hard work done by staff and volunteers to get the finances on a sound and transparent basis.

The Senior Warden announced that the National Capital Bank has renewed the church's line of credit for \$1 million but is imposing additional reporting requirements which we can meet because of changes in our staff and procedures.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: The Senior Warden reminded the Vestry that The Rev. Michele Morgan would be installed as Priest-in-Charge on May 22.

He said that 80 people have registered to date for the All Parish conference at Claggett, including children. The goal is 100. Funds are available for a bus from the church.

Diocesan Alcohol Policy: The Vestry reviewed the Diocesan policy relating to the serving of alcoholic beverage at church events. Several amendments were suggested and discussed. The Junior Warden offered to incorporate them into a revised document to be distributed electronically to the Vestry. With the amendments proposed, the document was unanimously **APPROVED.**

The Senior Warden announced that a survey is being conducted on what parishioners want in the way of Christian Education offerings in the future and how they feel about what they have experienced in the past.

He announced that there will be a special program on diversity on June 19 and urged Vestry members to attend.

Photography Issue: The Vestry discussed the issue of when photography should be allowed during services and at church events, noting that there is a tradeoff between privacy and publicity. While some people find photography during services intrusive and distracting, others feel that it is important to have interesting pictures to illustrate our life together if we hope to attract new members. Some people felt that it would be appropriate to allow photography during celebratory events such as weddings and the Christmas pageant, but that it should otherwise be banned during services.

Thia Hamilton had distributed a revised policy to Vestry members, who were requested to work on her version by email and send their thoughts to her, to be included in a revised document to be discussed at the next Vestry meeting. It was noted that photographs are particularly important to out-of-town members and those who are shut-ins or away for extended periods. The basic issues identified are privacy, appropriateness, and publicity – both for taking and using pictures.

The Senior Warden suggested that the Vestry consider streaming some services, which would cost about \$3,000 per service.

The Closing Prayer was offered by Christina White.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Anderson Cooper, Register