



Minutes of the Vestry

September 21, 2020

Attending:

Clergy: Michele Morgan

Wardens: Ryan Baugh, Sr. Warden, Jim Pittman, Jr. Warden

Vestry: Shay Waye, Fritz Henn, Linell Grundman, Kit Arrington, Andrew Stafford, Brandon Knight, Brent Bickley, Amber Macdonald, Christina Herman

Guests: Randy Marks, Raiford Gaffney, Mary Thuell

Opening Prayer: Offered by Ryan Baugh

Approval of the Minutes: Kit Arrington moved to approve the minutes for meetings held on 8-17-20 and 8-24-20. Andrew Stafford seconded the motion. The minutes were approved on a vote of 10-2, Christina Herman and Michele Morgan abstained.

Report of the Treasurer: The Finance Committee did not meet in August but reviewed all financial reports online. The 2020 budget forecast has been revised to reflect the continued better than expected collection of pledge income. As in previous months, pledge income is running ahead of budget and better than 2019. Assuming revenue and expenses remain as predicted for the remainder of the year, a budget deficit of \$93,000 is forecast. Extended Vision pledge payments allowed a transfer of \$4,500 toward the LOC principal, bringing the principal balance down to \$152,000. The Finance Committee will begin the 2021 budget process at its October meeting.

The revisions to the "Basic Financial Operations Resolution" were circulated by the Treasurer in advance of the September 21 Vestry Meeting. The last revisions were in 1992. The current changes reflect the budget practices in place at St. Mark's. The Finance Committee recommends that the Vestry approve the change.

ACTION: Kit Arrington moved that the Vestry approve the 9/16/20 revisions to the "Basic Financial Operations Resolution" together with its Appendices. Andrew Stafford seconded the motion. The motion carried 11-0, 1 abstention.

Appointment of Vestry Counsel: Mary Thuell has agreed to serve as Vestry Counsel succeeding Rosemary Harold whose term expired at the Annual Meeting.

ACTION: Fritz Henn moved that the Vestry affirm the Senior Warden's appointment of Mary Thuell to serve as Counsel to the Vestry. Christina Herman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Request to Support the Rosenwald School Bill: Stephanie Deutsch wrote to the Vestry requesting that St. Mark's endorse pending federal legislation (HR 3250/S 1863 – the Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools Study Act) which would begin the process of creating a federal park to memorialize Rosenwald and the schools. Rosenwald was the founder of Sears & Roebuck Co. and philanthropist who helped build thousands of schools between 1912-1932 in the rural South to educate African American children. Former Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) attended a Rosenwald School. The legislation is endorsed by 31 groups and enjoys bipartisan support in Congress.

ACTION: Linell Grundman moved that St. Mark's support the passage of HR 3250/S 1863, legislation to establish a National Historic Park honoring the impact of Julius Rosenwald. Fritz Henn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with 1 abstention.

Update on Re-Opening and Regathering Committee: The Committee tasked with developing the policies and protocols for use of St. Mark's facilities and regathering for worship has been named and has begun work. A video and fact sheet were distributed to parishioners.

Vestry Roles on the Canvass: Alix Pierera is leading this year's Canvass and seeks Vestry Members to help with outreach to parishioners.

Report of the Senior Warden: The virtual ministry fair will be held on 10/4/20 via Zoom. Vestry Members are encouraged to create "greeter" videos for use during Sunday services.

Report of the Rector: Michele and Caleb are working on plans for the Annual Christmas Pageant. This will include a video of pageant participants. Planning for Advent and Christmas services is also underway. The monthly "what's new, what's working, what needs attention" has been reinstituted through the Google Drive. This is an opportunity for the Vestry to weigh in with their thoughts.

The Vestry will continue its twice-monthly schedule of meetings.

Closing Prayer: Led by Randy Marks.

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