



## Minutes of the Vestry

November 16, 2020

The meeting convened online at 6:30 pm.

### Attending:

#### Clergy-

Michele Morgan, Rector

#### Wardens-

None present

#### Vestry-

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

#### Officers –

John Edwards, Treasurer; Mary Thuell, Counsel; Kim Bayliss, Register

#### Guests –

Raiford Gaffney, Josie Jordan, Randy Marks, Alix Pierera

### Opening Prayer led by Linell Grundman

Approval of the Minutes from October 19, 2020 meeting. The minutes were circulated for review via email prior to the meeting. Linell Grundman moved that the minutes be adopted. Fritz Henn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a show of hands. The vote was unanimous.

Report of the Treasurer. The Finance Committee met on November 11<sup>th</sup>. John Edwards reports that as of 10/20/20 the mortgage for St. Mark's is completely paid off. The remainder of the Joya Cox bequest, \$116K was applied to the Line of Credit. Together with \$5000 in Vision 2020 payments, the balance on the Line of Credit is approximately \$28K. The budget continues to run well ahead of the same time last year due to stronger than anticipated pledge income earlier this year. An updated forecast of the effect of the shutdown projects a year-end surplus of approximately \$7K. This is mainly due to the reduction in mortgage costs, lower than anticipated expenses, and higher than anticipated pledge payments. The forecast still retains a conservative estimate of remaining pledge income through the end of the year.

The 2021 proposed budget will be presented at the December Vestry meeting. The Finance Committee used the following assumptions in developing the budget:

- Canvass 2020 goal of \$890K will be met
- 11 months of expenses for an assistant rector
- Optimistic projection for expenses related to space use and conservative projection on income in 2021
- COLA for staff

The Finance Committee is considering bonuses for staff related to increased workload because of the shutdown. The Vestry may be asked to approve in December. After a discussion on the feasibility of adding another staff position the Vestry agreed to consider a Committee on Personnel.

Discussion of 2020 Canvass. In 2019 there were 295 pledges for \$894,942. In the current canvass there are 105 pledges for \$428,187 so far. Thirty percent of Vestry members have pledged. The current pledges comprise 48% of the budget. Alix Pierera reports that people who have pledged have increased the amount by 10%.

Discussion of anti-Semitic language change in Easter Worship. Randy Marks presented to the Vestry his proposal to ask the Standing Committee on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington to eliminate use of language that blames people of Jewish faith for the death of Jesus during Holy Week and all readings that use antisemitic language. The proposal must be submitted by 11/30/20 to meet the deadline for consideration at the January 2021 Diocesan Convention.

Linell Grundman offered a motion that the Rector and Vestry of St. Mark's direct our Delegates to submit to the Diocesan Convention, by November 30, 2020, the following resolution and explanatory note and to advocate for its passage.

*Resolved, the Convention of the Diocese of Washington submits to the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church the following resolution:*

*"Resolved, the House of \_\_\_\_\_ concurring, that the 80th General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to revise the Church's appointed Lectionary readings to exclude or edit passages that use antisemitic language and that the Episcopal Church advocate that other denominations using the Revised Common Lectionary make the same changes."*

Kit Arrington seconded the motion. The motion was approved: 8 voted yes, 0 voted no, 1 abstained.

Discussion of Letter of Support for Admission to the Holy Order for Ordination to the Priesthood for Caitlin Frazier. Parishioner Caitlin Frazier seeks to enter the Priesthood. Two-thirds of the Vestry and the Rector must vote in favor of sending a letter of support that confirms the person is a confirmed communicant in good standing; the church will help her prepare; and provide financial support. The Vestry voted 10-0 in favor of signing the letter.

Report of the Rector. Discussion of filling remaining open Vestry Leadership positions. Updates on the Christmas service schedule and Advent activities. Announcement of hiring of The Reverend R. Justice

Schunior as a Pastoral Associate for the next six weeks. Scope of her work is to call all of the parishioners in the next three weeks, work on the Christmas bulletins, and other duties as assigned for 20 hours a week. The Assistant Rector Hiring Committee is being pulled back together.

Closing prayer led by Randy Marks.

The meeting adjourned at 8 pm.