



Minutes of the Vestry

May 24, 2022

The Vestry convened via Zoom conferencing platform for the May meeting on the 24th at 7 pm. The following were in attendance:

Clergy – The Reverend Chris Phillips, Assistant Rector

Wardens – Linell Grundman – Senior Warden, David Wellman – Junior Warden

Vestry –Harrison “Hank” Donnelly, Chris Berendes, Fritz Henn, Nick Rogers, Jeb Ory, Brent Bickley, Katherine Buchanan, Jan Lipscomb, Edna Boone

Officers – Randy Marks - Treasurer, Kim Bayliss - Register, Frank Nickerson – Assistant Treasurer for Special Gifts and Bequests

Guests- Caleb Nelson Amaker

Opening Prayer led by the Assistant Rector, Chris Phillips.

Approval of the Minutes – Edna Boone moved to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Katherine Buchanan. Vote was taken by a show of hands. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Summer Youth Service Trip – Motion to Approve Fundraiser

Youth Director, Caleb Nelson Amaker, reported to the Vestry that the long tradition of a youth service trip during the summer was resuming in 2022. St. Mark's is working with Next Step ministries on a trip to Kentucky. St. Mark's had previously arranged to work with Next Step Ministries for a trip the summer of 2020 which had to be cancelled due to COVID. Participants on the trip will be using “stock sales” to raise money to defray part of the expense of the trip. Shares will be for sale to St. Mark's members for \$20 each on Sundays after services in June. Shareholders will receive a postcard from students and an invitation to participate in an end of trip celebration. The Youth Director is planning for four students.

ACTION

Motion to approve the Stock Sale fundraiser to raise funds for the 2022 summer youth service trip was offered by Chris Berendes. Jan Lipscomb seconded the motion. Vote was taken by a show of hands. The motion was approved unanimously.

Report of the Sr. Warden

Sr. Warden circulated a report to Vestry members via email and highlighted the following items during the meeting:

- Stewardship Committee – Subgroups have started reporting out to the Stewardship Committee. Annual campaign group will be chaired by Matt Dodge. A draft report of the annual campaign strategy will be circulated to the Vestry shortly.
- The Senior Warden recommends that Frank Nickerson fill the open slot on the Stewardship Committee.
- Senior Warden seeks one to two vestry members to join the Undesignated Gift Working Group. The group will make recommendations by September.
- Ukraine Fundraiser motion to be considered this evening.
- Looking for vestry members to serve on the security working group. The Assistant Rector and Senior Warden believe the church needs protocols for dealing with mentally ill and unhoused persons who enter the church in a way that recognizes the challenge of maintaining a welcoming space for newcomers but also protects the church community.

Report of the Junior Warden

Jr. Warden circulated a report to Vestry members via email and highlighted the following items during the meeting:

- Building related expenses are on budget.
- A proposal is being developed to repair Nave doors to make them more secure. A lighting consultant has been contacted to increase lighting in the courtyard at night. A walk-through with a homeland security consultant identified the need to replace door lock cylinders due to lax key control in the past. These would be capital improvements that are not in the budget.
- St. Mark's will not be submitting a proposal for a FEMA grant to help defray the expense of security upgrades at this time.

Report of the Treasurer

The Treasurer circulated the monthly financial report to the Vestry prior to the meeting. Questions/comments were solicited from the Vestry.

- Assistant Treasurer, Bill Jordan, is leading the search for a new accounting firm.

ACTION

Motion offered by Katherine Buchanan that the Vestry approve the following resolution:

The Vestry of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, legally known as St. Mark's Parish in the District of Columbia, authorizes Franklin Nickerson, our recent Treasurer (resigned as of May 4, 2022) and now current Assistant Treasurer for Special Gifts and Bequests (appointed as of May 5, 2022) to continue to have signing authority and all other authority necessary to establish Vanguard Accounts to hold St. Mark's financial Reserves.

Motion seconded by Jan Lipscomb. Vote on the motion recorded by show of hands. Motion passes unanimously.

Vestry Member Updates

- Jan Lipscomb reported that she is overseeing the creation of a new form for parishioners to use in reserving space in the building.
- Jan Lipscomb updated the vestry on St. Mark's participation in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington's "Tending our Soil" program. An application has been submitted to EDOW. Six volunteers are being recruited to participate on the St. Mark's committee who will lead the work on the program.
- Assistant Rector, Chris Phillips, initiated a discussion of the daily email communication sent to St. Mark's parishioners who opt-in to receive input on the frequency and need of the emails. The emails were originally started to keep the St. Mark's community connected during the COVID pandemic. As St. Mark's transitions to pre-pandemic operations, and in response to recent complaints, the Assistant Rector is initiating a review of the daily emails.

Vestry Approval for Father's Day Fundraiser to Benefit Ukraine

The Outreach Board and Worship Committee seek approval by the Vestry of an application for a fundraiser to benefit the organization, Razom for Ukraine. The Outreach Board has pledged \$1000 to Razom but seeks to include the greater St. Mark's community by donating the plate collection at the Sunday, June 18th service to Razom. June 18th is Father's Day which the applicants believe is a fitting way to commemorate all of the Father's of Ukraine who have been separated from their families during the conflict.

ACTION

Motion for the Vestry to approve the application of the Outreach Board and Worship Committee to approve the Father's Day fundraiser to benefit Ukraine through the organization Razom Ukraine offered by Jeb Ory. Motion was seconded by Katherine Buchanan. Vote was taken by a show of hands. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Request for New Members on the Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee seeks two additional members to provide continuity to avoid all committee member terms expiring at the same time.

New Business

ACTION

Motion to approve the appointment of Frank Nickerson, Assistant Treasurer for Special Gifts and Bequests, as a member of the Stewardship Committee in place of Martha Huizenga made by Katherine Buchanan. Motion seconded by David Wellman. Vote taken by show of hands. Motion was approved unanimously.

Hank Donnelly reported on the organ recital for St. Mark's Music Director Jeff Kempeskie at Church of the Epiphany on Tuesday, May 24th. Hank expressed his gratitude for Jeff's artistry.

Edna Boone, Jan Lipscomb, and Chris Berendes seek guidance on improving communications with parishioners.

Jan Lipscomb reported on the "game day" as part of the Baseball class.

Linell Grundman circulated a short video of Banner Sunday to all Vestry Members.

The Vestry voted to adjourn by acclamation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.