

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**Joint Meeting of the Vestry and Finance Committee**  
**December 19, 2023**  
**Via Zoom**

**Present:**

*Vestry:* Travis Beaty, Chris Berendes, Jim Brooks (Senior Warden), Hank Donnelly, Jan Lipscomb, Michele Morgan (Rector), Jeb Ory, Meg Platt, Nick Rogers, Todd Thorpe, David Wellman (Junior Warden).

*Officers:* Randy Marks (Treasurer), Jordan (Assistant Treasurer), Frank Nickerson (Assistant Treasurer).

*Finance Committee:* Mary Cooper, Lawrence Lokken, Nick Simons, Annick Milde (Parish Finance Administrator).

*Guests:* Terri Poxon Pearson, Amilcar Portillo, Doug Padgett, Kristina Keenan, Holly Kreuter, Raiford Gaffney.

**Finance Committee/Vestry Discussion**

Treasurer Randy Marks expressed his appreciation for Annick Milde's service and her help to the Finance Committee.

Senior Warden Jim Brooks reported that the total income through November has slightly exceeded budget but there is still a deficit of \$41,348. Bill Jordan expressed cautious optimism but observed that the amount owed on 2023 pledges is "hefty and unlikely to show up this year."

Pledges for 2024 seem to have slowed, leading to some anxiety. Meg Platt stated that calls have not yet gone out to people who pledged for 2023 but not 2024 and suggested that they receive email reminders now with follow up calls in January.

Randy said he anticipates pledges of \$930,000 as of December 19, for a total of just over a million dollars in total income, leaving a gap of \$84,000 between income and proposed expenses.

Randy questioned how much of the gap we want to close. The Endowment has available funds that can't be spent for routine expenses as a matter of policy, although they can be used for new things. He noted the skillful use of endowment funds by the Archives Committee. Jim Steed's memorial funds are going into the Building Reserve. \$34,711 has already been deposited and another \$24,000 has just arrived.

Assistant Treasurer Frank Nickerson reported that 167 pledges have been received, compared to 250 last year at this time, thus creating uncertainty about what the pledge totals will be. The estimate of \$930,000 is not certain. He observed that although the pledges so far are fewer, those we have are higher.

Jim suggested doing special outreach for funding around four areas: music and dance, hospitality, social outreach, and youth, all of which bring in new people. Assistant Treasurer Bill Jordan noted that keeping the people we already have is what leads to raised pledges. The Rector observed that education about pledging is needed since the idea of pledging is unknown to some people. She stressed the importance of meeting the needs of the parish's elders.

It was noted that about \$150,000 in endowment funds is available in most years but that money cannot be used for operating expenses as a matter of policy. There was discussion about changing that policy.

Jim said there would be no changes in the budget proposal until after the end of the year when final expenses and the Canvass totals are known.

Randy and Bill will review the 2023 actual results on January 12 and bring a proposed budget to the January 23 Joint Finance Committee-Vestry meeting.

## **Vestry Meeting**

The Rector, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden made brief oral reports and the Junior Warden had posted the [Junior Warden report](#).

The Vestry discussed the slightly revised Service and Social Justice Board Charter. Action: To approve the proposed [Service and Social Justice Board Charter](#). Moved by Chris Berendes, Second by Jan Lipscomb. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Cooper