



Minutes of the Vestry  
November 29, 2022

The Vestry convened via Zoom conferencing platform for the November meeting on the 29th at 7 pm. The following were in attendance:

Clergy - The Reverend Michele Morgan, 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

Officers - Randy Marks, Treasurer; Frank Nickerson, Assistant Treasurer for Special Gifts and Bequests; Shay Waye, Register

Guests - Raiford Gaffney

Opening Prayer - Prayer led by the Rector (Michele Morgan)

**Approval of the Minutes** - Minutes were approved by acclamation.

Report of the Rector - The Rector's report was distributed to the Vestry prior to the meeting, with the following areas highlighted:

- Amendment of next Vestry meeting was announced as Tuesday, January 3, 2023
- Amicus brief posted relating to request that Bishop Mariann draft and submit a letter to President Biden on gun violence
- Annual Meeting was moved to March 5 from March 12, due to daylight savings (ACTION)

**Motion (Linell Grundman) that St. Marks Annual Meeting be held on March 5. Seconded (Jeb Ory). Motion carries.**

- Vestry retreat is scheduled on March 19
- Discussion of “Pilot Project for Worship Planning,” designed to look at various approaches to worship in order to create more inclusive, engaging and creative liturgies. Steering committee members (Betsy Ahey, Nadine Hathaway, and Nat White) are the leads. Michele to post pilot project up on drive.

Report of the Senior Warden - The Senior Warden’s report was distributed to Vestry prior to the meeting, with the following areas highlighted:

- Linell indicated she is recovering from a medical condition, relating to rare environmental sensitivity.
- Michele will be taking over Stewardship’s canvas committee
- Small amount of funding available from Community Caregivers, which ultimately may help fund a social worker for seniors within St. Marks
- The library committee is working to receive children books
- The Senior Warden Tea for ladies and girls is upcoming with the theme “The Holy Family.” This is scheduled for December 17
- Personnel committee is in need of more members and is currently working on job performance review

Report of the Junior Warden - The Junior Warden’s report was distributed to Vestry prior to the meeting, with the following areas highlighted:

- Supply expenses are running higher than expected, however, repairs are below budget.
- Elevator inspection is due in December.
- The Nave doors are in need of repairs and are difficult to open. We are meeting with consultants to investigate options.
- We are considering re-keying our facility to increase security. This will require distributing new keys to those that need them. We need to develop processes for determining who needs keys and how to track them.

Report of the Treasurer - The Treasurer’s report was distributed to Vestry prior to the meeting, with the following areas highlighted:

- Currently pledges are behind, though pledges for October were not alarming.
- Budget meeting taking place this Sunday at 1, with a closer look to the budget
- Sabbatical expenses were \$500 under expectations

Chris Berendes expressed concerns about the budget in general, questioning how the Vestry wants to look at how to reach out to members who have not yet pledged, or are in other ways behind. Discussion regarding sensitivity to reaching out to others is important particularly in a year when many are just returning to St. Marks. Thoughts of sending an email, phone trees and face-to-face methods were discussed. From discussion, ideas suggested were:

- Michele working with the Assistant Rector (Chris Philips) to reach out to those who have been regularly attending in person and have not yet pledged
- Look at ways to boost membership, and have these discussions included in Budget meetings going forward
- Consider budget preparations in future years that take shortfalls under consideration

The Vestry agreed, in principle with points of actions discussed w/o need for a motion.

Membership Charter - Jeb Ory discussed the Membership Charter. There were small edits made to the document, which were pointed out to the Vestry, and proposed was a goal of doubling current pledge units in the next three years. Discussion included various tactics for reaching goals, looking at church trends and how to identifying voting-eligible members.  
(ACTION)

**Motion (??) to accept passage of membership charter. Seconded (??). Vote was unanimous and motion carries.**

Updates - The following updates were reported:

- Saints and Sinners Event (Jan Lipscomb). There were 64 adults and 33 children that participated in the Saints and Sinners social. Overall, the event was a success
- Navaho Land Initiative (Jan Lipscomb). Reported there were three people who attended this initiative, held in Utah.
- Parish Life Lead (Linell Grundman). Volunteer leaders have been established.
- Pumpkin Bread Project (Jeb Ory). Project was successful, with approximately \$1,000 dollars raised to a local dog/cat shelter

**Motion (Chris Berendes) made to adjourn at 8:27 pm. Seconded (Linell Grundman). Motion carries.**