



Minutes of the Vestry
May 30, 2023

The Vestry convened via Zoom conferencing platform for the May 30, 2023 meeting at 7:02 pm.
The following were in attendance:

Clergy - The Reverend Michele Morgan, Rector; Christopher Phillips, Associate Rector

Wardens - Jim Brooks, Senior Warden; David Wellman, Junior Warden

Vestry - Class of '23: Travis Beaty, Meg Platt, Todd Thorpe
Class of '24: Chris Berendes, Katherine Buchanan, Jeb Ory
Class of '25: Harrison "Hank" Donnelly, Jan Lipscomb, Nick Rogers

Officers - Randy Marks, Treasurer; Frank Nickerson, Assistant Treasurer, Special Gifts & Bequests; Shay Waye, Clerk

Guest(s): Raiford Gaffney

Opening Prayer - Prayer led by the Rector (Christopher Phillips) at 7:02 pm

Approval of the Minutes - Minutes of the March 28 and April 25 minutes were discussed for review and action

(Action) Motion (Chris Berendes) to accept March 28 minutes. Seconded (Katherine Buchanan). Motion was accepted by acclimation.

The April 25 minutes were unavailable for review and will be considered at the June meeting.

Junior Warden's Report - The Junior Warden's report was distributed to the Vestry prior to the meeting, and highlighted recent repairs, and building updates (including key FOBS). Question was asked about space use and market rate. Dave indicated that he has put together a small team to look at rental use as a way to generate revenue. This team will meet again in June and Dave will report back at that time.

Jan Lipscomb mentioned the pillars and asked about mechanisms for a gathering to discuss internal (i.e., parishioners) vs external building use. She asked whether there were plans to gather everyone to discuss parishioner use of space. Dave agreed there was a need to prioritize the space needs of our pillars and parishioners. Michele added that while the Junior Warden and his team develop a plan, many major St. Marks events have already been reserved and added to the calendar. Overall, the goal moving forward is to look at all aspects of space rentals.

Rector's Report - Michele stated that Rosemary Harris has agreed to serve as Counsel, a role she has previously served. There was some discussion before the Vestry agreed to support Rosemary's appointment. Her picture and bio will be sent out to the Vestry, as reference.

Michele said there were two fundraising events posted on the share drive. The first is a talent show fundraiser, the second is Navajoland stock. Jeb spoke to both, fully endorsing them as positive efforts. Hearing no objections, the Vestry supported both fundraisers

Michele reported that after much discussion with Christian Education, Sunday school will now fall under the responsibility of the Youth Director (Caleb Nelson Amaker). Parents will be informed next month and a follow up announcement will be published for the entire parish.

Michele encouraged everyone to wear orange on June 25 in commemoration of gun violence victims.

Senior Warden Report - The Senior Warden spoke first about the web pages. Specifically, he discussed plans for a re-design, some of his thinking coming from the Bishop's observations during her last St. Marks visit. Jim said there was a need to look at how we market ourselves and the messages we send out.

Vestry members commented on the web page. Jan Lipscomb spoke on the those - including herself - that have worked on the website in the past. Michele also spoke of Edna's offer to assist with the website (which Jan had previously commented). Jeb Ory spoke on the need for a long-term web owner, whether it be Edna or others. Chris also added that the need is not just in design but in edits and leadership. Jim thanked everyone for these discussions and hoped this was an area that could really flourish with a well thought out plan.

There was also discussion on the Bishop's visit, specifically on processes shared with the Vestry, i.e., the announcement process. Meg mentioned a need to think about a more user-friendly approach to announcements, especially how what we do is perceived by newcomers. Michele agreed that discussion in this area needs greater flushing out at the Vestry level.

Treasurer's Report - The Treasurer's report was distributed to the Vestry prior to the meeting. There were a five (5) recommendations from a recently-held Finance Committee, requiring action of the Vestry:

Motion #1 re: Vanguard Account:

Motion that the Vestry authorizes the following officers of St. Mark's Episcopal Church as signers on Vanguard Accounts 18756651, 51279674, and 59349737: James Brooks, Senior Warden; Randall David Marks, Treasurer; and Franklin Nickerson, Assistant Treasurer for Special Gifts and Bequests on March 28, 2023. Motion of the Finance Committee was accepted by the Vestry.

Motion #2 re: Vanguard Star Accounts

Motion that the Vestry authorizes the Treasurer to (1) invest, at a time when he deems the investment to be wise in light of market conditions, all remaining cash in the Operating and Building Reserve Funds in the appropriate Vanguard Star Accounts; (2) withdraw reserves funds from the Vanguard Star accounts as he deems necessary.

Comment was made to add that Michele be notified when money is moved, to which the response was added that Michele is currently notified - as there are a number of safeguards in place when money is moved. Motion of the Finance Committee was accepted by the Vestry.

Motion #3 re: EDOW Grant

Motion that the Vestry authorizes the Treasurer to close out the EDOW Grant (with Calvary) Temporary Restricted Fund and increase the Washington Interfaith Network budget item (51352) by \$1000 to \$4000. Motion of the Finance Committee was accepted by the Vestry.

Motion #4 re Annual Audit

Motion that the Vestry authorizes the Treasurer to engage Helen Nelson to perform the 2022 audit.

Comment was made to thank the previous auditor for his outstanding work. Motion of the Finance Committee was accepted by the Vestry.

Motion #5 re Sunday Lunch Account

There was much discussion around the Sunday Lunch account, which stemmed from pub lunch ticket sales. One thought is to refund monies; hampering this solution is a lack of clarity of what is owed and what is profit. Another consideration is determining the future of pub lunch.

Michele stated that due to many facets of this motion, we would table until a later meeting.

New Business - The following new items were addressed.

- Worship Survey. A request was made on the status of the worship survey, specifically, the actions of the Vestry. The survey, which was sent to the Vestry after its April meeting provided data on lessons learned. Michele agreed to resend the survey tonight for the group to review and discuss.
- Summer Meeting Schedule. Michele indicated that given the amount of Vestry business, it would be necessary to consider June, July and August meetings. It was also determined that the June 27 meeting be a hybrid meeting.

Adjournment - (ACTION)

Motion (Jim Brooks) to adjourn meeting. Seconded (Katherine Buchanan). Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm. Michele Morgan offered parting prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shay Waye
Clerk