



Minutes of the Vestry  
January 31, 2023

The Vestry convened via Zoom conferencing platform for the January 31, 2023 meeting at 7:03 pm. The following were in attendance:

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

Wardens - Louise Walsh, Senior Warden; David Wellman, Junior Warden

Vestry - Class of '23: Brent Bickley, Fritz Henn, Edna Boone  
Class of '24: Chris Berendes, Katherine Buchanan  
Class of '25: Harrison "Hank" Donnelly, Jan Lipscomb

Officers - Randy Marks, Treasurer; Bill Jordan, Assistant Treasurer; Frank Nickerson, Assistant Treasurer, Bequests; Shay Waye, Register

Guest(s) - Raiford Gaffney

Opening Prayer - Prayer led by the Raiford Gaffney

**Approval of the Minutes** - Minutes of the January 3 were discussed. Due to a number of omissions and technical issues of the Register, the Vestry agreed to table the minutes until next meeting. (ACTION)

**Motion (Katherine Buchanan) to accept minutes. Seconded (Edna Boone) Votes were unanimous and motion carries.**

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

- Recognized the recent passing of longtime St. Marks members;
- The Finance Committee hosted a forum on January 22 to discuss the Budget;
- Chris Phillips' title was elevated to Associate Rector;

- Parish looking at new ways to engage laity;
- Received report from Nora Howell indicating Parish is close to it's pledge goals

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

- Thanked Treasurer for recent forum;
- Discussed upcoming Annual meeting, specifically need to focus on nominating committee. Dave Wellman added that nominations may be taken from the floor;
- Chris Phillips' promotion
- Bylaws amendment for discussion in February;
- Vestry discussed "boiler plate" language from clearance Firm, specifically documents submitted by Security Americas, Inc. (ACTION)

**Motion (Chris Berendes) that the Vestry approve language relating to tax documents from Security Americas, Inc. Seconded (Katherine Buchanan). Votes were unanimous and motion carries.**

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

- Elevator inspection went well;
- Endowment approved budgetary requests;
- Heat pump was replaced

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

- Discussed current budget, and to approve budget (ACTION)

**Motion (Harrison Donnelly) that the Vestry approve budget. Seconded (Edna Boone). Votes were unanimous and motion carries.**

Motion was amended. (AMENDED ACTION 1)

**Motion (Dave Wellman) that the Vestry amend its previous motion to eliminate funds allocated in budget to Tending Our Soil to zero. Seconded (Chris Berendes). Votes were unanimous and amendment to the original motion carries.**

A second amendment to the motion was made. (AMENDED ACTION 2)

**Motion (Dave Wellman) that the Vestry approves the Finance Committee proposed budget, including the 3% COLA with the following changes: (1) strike the \$300 allocation for Tending Our Soil; (2) strike the \$30,000 in bequests income, and (3) increase the transfer from Vestry Operating Reserve by \$30,000 to \$111,380. Seconded (Edna Boone). Votes were unanimous and second amendment to the original motion carries.**

Vestry agreed to revisit issues of bequests, including recognition of bequests in July.

**New Business** - Jan Lipscomb asked that there be reconciliation of past hurts, particularly in light of our former Senior Warden. She asked that - moving forward - Vestry consider this a proposal to meet in person and discuss strategies to support each other as we encounter crisis situations (including mental health issues). Michelle, Jan, and Louise agreed to discuss and bring findings back to the Vestry.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm. Michele Morgan offered parting prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shay Waye  
Register