

Approved 5/28/2024
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2024
Via Zoom, 7:00PM-9:00PM

Attendance

- *Vestry Members Present:* Jim Brooks (Senior Warden), Martha Huizenga (Junior Warden), Hank Donnelly, Jan Lipscomb, Nick Rogers, Travis Beaty, Elizabeth Becker, Doug Padgett, Kristina Keenan, Todd Thorpe
- *Vestry Members Absent:* Michele Morgan (Rector), Meg Platt
- *Officers Present:* Randy Marks (Clerk), Doug Ammon (Treasurer)
- *Guests:* Michael Summey, Karen Wiedemann
- In the absence of the Rector, the Senior Warden presided.

March 2024 Minutes

The Vestry did not meet in March because of Holy Week and lack of pressing business. By email votes, the Vestry approved several actions. [☰ Vestry Minutes.March 2024 Email Actions](#) approved Unanimously.

Reports

The Senior Warden, [Junior Warden](#), and [Treasurer](#) reported. The Senior Warden report included:

- A decision to [celebrate](#) the 10th Anniversary of the transformative Vision 2020 campaign on September 8.
- Discussion of the search for the Assistant Rector.

Endowment

Karen Wiedemann (Endowment Board Co-Chair) and Michael Summey (Endowment Board Treasurer) [reported](#) on the Endowment. Discussion included modifying uses of funds.

Strategic Vision Discussion

The Vestry discussed the Parish's vision, starting from the question "What Makes St. Mark's Unique?" Points included:

- Some vestry members felt that context was necessary for the question. The new question could be, "What makes St. Mark's, as a parish nestled near the US Capitol, both unique and especially relevant?" The idea is that our geography determines our special purpose -- "What is it about the work of St. Mark's in this time and place that makes us unique?"
- What is the vestry seeking to learn from such a question?
 - Do we want to learn why people come to St. Mark's?
 - Do we want to learn which of our programs are the strongest?
 - Do we want to learn where we focus our financial and human resources for growth?

- How are we different from other churches?
 - Worship in the round.
 - Open liturgy and communion.
 - Inclusiveness, particularly a community welcoming of both "believers" and "skeptics."
 - Proximity to Capitol. (But does that matter?)
 - Engaging adult Christian education
 - Our robust music program.
- Perhaps a better question which gets at the heart of these observations is, "What is the St. Mark's ethos" or character?
- How has the prominence of our programs changed?
 - Adult Christian Ed has possibly declined.
 - Music has become prominent.
 - Greater focus on Service & Social Justice.
- What are our key programs? 2024 Budget reflects emphasis on Music, Sunday School, Service & Social Justice, & Communications.
- How do our different generations of members differ? *E.g.*, experimental liturgy more important to older members?
- Implications for the June Parish Retreat:
 - Making use of this (or a similar) question could be useful for a discussion.
 - Results of a new membership committee questionnaire are being reviewed and may be available by the June 29-30 retreat event.

Respectfully submitted,
 Randy Marks
 Vestry Clerk