

**Approved 7/23/2024**

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
Vestry Meeting Minutes  
June 25, 2024  
Via Zoom & In Person, 7:00PM-8:45PM**

**Attendance**


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

**May Meeting Minutes**

May Vestry minutes (  Vestry Minutes.5-28-2024 ). Approved unanimously.

**Reports**


*Rector:*

-  *Rectors Report to Vestry June 2024.pdf*
- Hoping to have the mid-year pledge payment appeal out this week.


### *Senior Warden:*

September 8: 10th Year Vision 2020 Celebration with Paul Abernathy preaching, with Parish Fair: Travis, Jim, Jan, Michele, and Elizabeth to act as liaisons with celebration organizers Mike Townsend, Kenn Allen, Doris Burton.

### *Junior Warden:*

-  *Junior Warden Report06.25.2024.pdf*
- Roof repaired: fixes working.
- Rental system decision-making process almost done. Hoping to implement it over summer.
- Motion: The St Mark's Vestry authorizes the Rector to accept the gift of a Lutyens Memorial Bench from the Dail Doucette estate. Moved: Elizabeth; Seconded: Doug; Approved unanimously.

### *Treasurer:*

-  *Treasurers Report to Vestry.June 2024.docx*
- Pledges: over \$900,000.
- Deficit: Common to run a deficit at this point; on target, with using up half of the projected deficit.
- Investments: Star Fund up 7% year to date.
- New budget: Will recognize Assistant Rector hiring.
- FinComm agreed to move funds from the checking account to a 5% money market fund if above \$175,000.
- Employee Retention Tax Credit: PayChex submitted our application a long time ago. The IRS has paused processing due to many potential fraudulent applications. PayChex, which has filed thousands of other applications, has had only one application withdrawal (as potentially fraudulent). Doug thinks we are OK, though timing will be unpredictable, beyond that we cannot expect a decision soon.

## Structure & Communications Discussion

- Senior Warden Jim Brooks offered a document
  - ☰ Structures, Communications, & Liaisons as a summary of the Vestry's May meeting discussion and action proposal.
    - Main Take-Aways from Previous Discussion: Current structure previous time. Need more connection among programs. Connecting members to volunteer opportunities is a Vestry responsibility and in our long-term interests. Focus on communications before structure.
    - Communications Vehicles Chart.
    - What he heard was we need to do better in communications.
- Coordination:
  - Jim: Wants to get consensus on the charge for Vestry liaisons. One key need: be a better screen for coordinating activities among programs. Only Vestry can do it.
  - Reactions:
    - How have time to do communication? Need to have time on agenda.
    - Create time on agenda, but not too much time.
    - In past, rotating liaison reports. 2-3; let know in advance.
  - Agreement:
    - Standard ten minutes as part of Reports on agenda.
    - Provide notice to Clerk & submit short writing that can be included in agenda.
    - If information, it doesn't require time. If need attention, we can discuss issue.
- Communications:
  - Chart in Jim's paper is comprehensive and useful.

- Use website more?
- Agreement to have 10 minutes on agenda for liaisons to report on Pillar and other program issues.
- Have discussion with Communications Team at Vestry at some point?
- Parish Life needs attention and restructuring.

## Vision Discussion

- The Vestry's April meeting discussed “what makes St. Mark’s unique?” As a follow up, Senior Warden Jim Brooks posed the question: what might need to change to leverage our community’s gifts?
- Two discussions at retreat:
  - Saturday: what makes St Mark’s unique?
  - Sunday: what is your place in St Mark’s?
    - What does one want to do?
    - What’s in the way of doing it?
- Belonging and barriers:
  - Big year: elections and outcome. Impact?
  - How to have conversation without “heat on stove?” Who are we as people of faith in those conversations?
  - How do we make people feel comfortable in expressing minority views?
  - A guiding light is we can and do go to hard places. But we sometimes avoid that. Do as Jesus did: go into that discomfort.
  - Sermon Seminar as a model for what we do.

Respectfully submitted  
 Randy Marks  
 Vestry Clerk