

Approved 4/29/2025
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
March 25, 2025
Vestry Meeting
In-Person & Zoom, 7:00PM-8:35PM

Attendance

- *Vestry Members Present:* Michele Morgan (Rector), Jim Brooks (Senior Warden), Travis Beaty, Doug Padgett, Kristina Keenan, Katherine White, Ben Flowers, Elizabeth Becker, Todd Thorpe, Meg Platt
- *Vestry Members Absent:* Martha Huizenga (Junior Warden), Mary Ellison
- *Officers:* Randy Marks (Clerk), Ryan Baugh (Assistant Clerk), Roy Philips (Assistant Treasurer), Rosemary Harold (Counsel)
- *Clergy:* Caitlin Frazier (Assistant Rector)

Actions

- [February 25, 2025 Minutes](#), Approved unanimously.
- The Vestry approves the [March 2025 Amended Operating Budget](#). Motion: Elizabeth; Second: Kristina; Approved unanimously.

Reports

Rector:

- Michele Morgan reported on security incidents at church, including the barring order she recently issued (one of six since she came). She is discussing response plans with Caleb (in response to parent concerns) and, more generally, working with Martha Huizenga and others to update our emergency plans.

- Michele, Jeff Kempfskie, and Kristina Keenan will discuss how to address announcements.
- Seminarian Lydia Arnts will be ordained to the transitional diaconate on May 30; her last day at St. Mark's will be on May 11.
- Michele wants to discuss the Vestry member welcome at our services at the April meeting.

Junior Warden:

- Martha submitted her [Report](#) prior to the meeting, but was unable to attend.
- The report noted that the new calendar system is on the website; use the [form](#) there to rent/reserve space.

Treasurer:

- Doug submitted his [Report](#) in advance of the meeting.
- In his absence, Assistant Treasurer Roy Phillips delivered the Report, noting that operational results to date are within normal variation.
- He and Jim Brooks noted that the Finance Committee was addressing excess liquidity in the checking account, with the intention of moving most of it to a new Vanguard money market account.
- The Vestry approved (see above) [minor modifications to the 2025 operating budget](#), which updated the Taxes & Benefits category to reflect expected expenses based on current staffing levels, resulting in a \$4,720 increase in the budgeted net operating deficit.

Liaisons:

- Jim Brooks discussed the work of the vibrant Membership Committee. The committee has prepared a new brochure. Caitlin Frazier and Jeremy Sierra have a Coffee and Connections discussion for newcomers at 10:45 on 4th Sundays; Jim asked for Vestry members to join. Over the next six months,

there will be several retreats (choir summer tour, children's choir, families, centering prayer).

- Elizabeth Becker noted that she and Michele met with Nick Rogers, new Worship Committee Chair

Strategic Planning Discussion

- Jim had submitted in advance his [summary](#) of the Vestry Retreat discussion about a planning exercise.
- The discussion revealed three different approaches:
 - Better operational coordination among Pillar heads and other Parish leaders.
 - A strategic vision/plan for the Parish.
 - Member discussions about spirituality and community that would lead to a common strategic vision/plan.
- Jim will talk with Vestry members and present a new document.

Respectfully submitted

Randy Marks, Vestry Clerk

Ryan Baugh, Assistant Vestry Clerk