

Approved 5/27/2025
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2025
By Zoom, 7:00PM-8:35PM

Attendance

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

Actions

- [March 27, 2025 minutes](#) approved unanimously.
-  Navajoland Fundraiser.5-2025 approved unanimously.

Reports

Rector

- Michele Morgan reported we had 676 people at the three Easter Sunday services. We are at 289 Average Sunday Attendance (8-10% above last year). About 16 relatively new people are in the Belongings class.

- Lydia Arnts's last day as St. Mark's Seminarian is May 11. She'll be ordained to transitional diaconate on May 30.
- Michele observed that the discussion around curtailing lengthy announcements and other topics has revealed the challenge of how we hold/honor the full spectrum of our members's beliefs.

Senior Warden

- Jim discussed some newcomer dinners initiated by the Membership Committee
- Three groups (meditation, parents, choir) are having retreats in lieu of a 2025 parish retreat. He believes we should have Parish-wide retreats for 2026 and 2027 and possibly budget some money to help make them affordable.

Junior Warden

- Martha submitted her [Report](#) prior to the meeting.
- Martha discussed having had to replace copper pipe in the basement.

Treasurer

- Doug submitted his [Report](#) in advance of the meeting.
- Doug discussed some worries about what will happen with pledges this year, but sees no evidence of problems as of now.
- Doug briefly discussed reserve policy and transferring funds from a bequest.
- The Endowment will pay for part of the organ repair. The rest will come from the Vestry checking account.

Liaisons

- Meg presented a request for a fundraiser starting on Mother's Day through June for the Navajoland youth trip involving selling a Tracy Council etching. The Vestry approved it (see above).
- Vestry members discussed the Vestry Welcome.

Discussions

Strategic Planning

- The Planning Group (Ben Flowers, Mary Ellison, Doug Padgett, Katherine White) presented a proposal for developing a strategic plan.
- The first phase is a survey for parishioners to indicate their interests. The results will help us tell our story to ourselves and to others. Vestry members will comment on the draft questions and the Planning Group will come back with an updated draft.
- The second phase would be meetings with committees and pillars and possibly town halls to reflect on the results.

By-Laws Amendments

- Clerk Randy Marks presented some possible updates to our bylaws, mostly related to the nominations and the annual meeting.
- The Vestry will discuss and act on them at a future meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Randy Marks, Vestry Clerk

Ryan Baugh, Assistant Vestry Clerk