

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
January 4, 2023

Present: Fr. RJ, Bruce Hixon, Sr. Warden; John Willoughby, Jr. Warden; Beth Crowl, Carol Hayn, Marcia Kiesling, Gene Little, Mandy Pelger, Leslie Redmon, Sara Strattan

Guest: Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm with devotion and prayer provided by Leslie.

Sara **motioned** to accept the minutes of the December 7, 2022, meeting. Leslie seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Proposed 2023 Budget

- Charlie presented the Proposed 2023 Budget, noting that:
 - The 2023 pledged amount is \$15,000 over the 2022 year end forecast. The financial stewardship campaign was very successful.
 - Between the Trust and Cash Reserves, \$66,296 is required to meet 2023 expenses. However, this number is \$6,117 less than in 2022.
 - The 2023 expenses are \$12,995 higher than the 2022 year end forecast. Personnel and maintenance costs are the major contributors.
- Sara **motioned** to approve the St. Mark's 2023 Operating Budget as proposed by the Finance Committee that was presented to the Vestry on January 4, 2023. Carol seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.
- Sara **motioned** that the Vestry support continuing the shortfall funding process established by the Vestry at the January 6, 2021 meeting. The Vestry requests the Trustees to take the necessary action to support the 2023 Operating Budget shortfall with monthly withdrawals not to exceed a total of \$60,000 in the 2023 calendar year. Mandy seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Wardens' Reports

- **Senior Warden**
 - Bruce expressed his gratitude for everyone, particularly RJ, for making his job easier.
- **Junior Warden**
 - John commented that it would be helpful to get more clarification on the new outreach project with Hope Outreach. He also suggested that we ask Hope's director to mention St. Mark's involvement with them in their public announcements.

Rector's Report

- **Goals for 2022**
 - We achieved our goal of adding 6 new households in 2022.
 - We established an Outreach Committee and started an outreach project, Gibbs First Friday, that the parish can be involved in.
 - We are working on building better communications with Weaver.
 - Raising the Average Sunday in-person attendance to 100 is a long-term goal. In 2022 our average Sunday attendance was 62.9. There are usually 15 viewers on livestream and by the end of the week about 55-60 views.

Rector's Report (continued)

- **Doctor of Ministry Program**
 - Fr. RJ will be attending classes at the Seminary for the week of January 9, 2023. Bruce will conduct Morning Prayer on Sunday, January 15, 2023.
- **Retiring Vestry Members**
 - Fr. RJ thanked Beth, Bruce, and Marcia for their time serving on the Vestry.
- **Special Vestry Meeting After the Annual Meeting**
 - Fr. RJ reminded continuing Vestry members that there will be a Special Meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting to elect the new Wardens.

Weaver School Liaison

- Geoff Gordon has met with representatives from the Weaver Board and is gathering feedback about their operations and expectations and how we can work together to accommodate them.

Reminders

- A special Epiphany service of Lessons and Carols will be held on January 8, 2023 at St. Timothy's.
- The Social Media Session scheduled for January 15, 2023 is being postponed until a later date.
- The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 22, 2023 after the 9:00am service.

Other Business

- **Altar Guild**
 - Altar Guild is in the process of refurbishing or replacing worn items and has ordered two new torches. Altar Guild Funds or Memorial Funds will be used to pay for these items. Memorial Funds are typically used for tangible goods for the church that are of a permanent nature that can be seen by the parish.
- **Winter Convocation and Bishop's Consecration**
 - Leslie asked if anyone was attending either the Winter Convocation in February or the Bishop's Consecration in April. If enough people are interested we could put together an organized trip.
- **Epiphany Lessons and Carols at St. Timothy's**
 - John commented that all area churches are invited and it would be good if many parishioners from St. Mark's could attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm with a **motion** by Sara, seconded by Marcia, and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1, 2023, at 5:30pm. Carol will provide the Reflection and Prayer for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Violand
Clerk