

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2020

Present: Fr. Gaston, Derek Gordon, Sr. Warden; Rhonda Warren, Jr. Warden; Beth Crowl, Linda Deuble, Grace Giammarco, Bruce Hixon, Bob Kennedy, Marcia Kiesling, Beck Rand, John Wise

Excused: Caroline Willoughby

The meeting was called to order at 5:35pm. Rhonda led the opening devotions.

John **motioned** to accept the minutes of the February 5, 2020 meeting. Bruce seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Finance Committee

- **2019 Parochial Report**

- John **motioned** to approve the completed Parochial Report. Grace seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Senior Warden's Report

- **Draft of Diocesan Policy for Protection of Children and Youth**

- A committee of Emily Gordon, Mandy Pelger, and Sandy Paradis are reviewing the Diocesan Policy. Comments will be solicited from those that the Policy impacts.
- The Policy will be strengthened, and parts that do not pertain to our parish will be omitted. There is no deadline for completion.

- **Building and Grounds**

- A list of 20+ wants and needs of items to repair and/or replace has been compiled. Some may be able to be shared with Weaver.
- The top four items on the list are the parking lot, the boiler, basement restrooms, and the undercroft carpet. We will get estimates and hope to have recommendations by the next Vestry meeting.
- Weaver's Outdoor Work Party Cleanup Day is scheduled for two hours on the afternoon of April 23, 2020. St. Mark's members are encouraged to help.
- Derek talked to Patrick Willoughby from Weaver about sharing expenses for some of the needed improvements, such as the parking lot and the undercroft carpet. Weaver is willing to help, and they also want to extend their agreement. When we negotiate their renewal, we will need to consider any investments they have made in the building.

- **Stark County Fair Participation**

- We will submit another Grant Request to the Diocese to support the Fair outreach. There is no limit to the number of times we can apply for the Grant.
- Rhonda **motioned** to approve sending the Grant application to the Diocese for the Baby Booth at the Stark County Fair. Beck seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

- **Restoration Fundraiser Event Approval**

- Marcia **motioned** to approve the Restoration Committee's request for a fundraiser event to be held on May 30, 2020. Bruce seconded the motion and the motion was approved.
- The event will be a combined celebration to thank everyone for contributing, as well as another chance to raise the \$8-10,000 still needed to reach the goal of \$150,000.

- **Other Items**

- A Birthday Party Request for June 13, 2020 has been received from Mary Hakaim, our cleaner. Vestry approval is not needed as there will be no alcohol, we will not charge a rental fee, and she already has access to the building.
- A Piano Recital is scheduled for June 8, 2020 in the sanctuary for Katie's piano teacher. We will charge the same \$100 fee as we do for the undercroft. Both pianos will be used, and we will ask Bob for his approval out of courtesy. There will be no alcohol, and Katie already has building access, so Vestry approval is not needed.
- Habitat for Humanity approached Derek about committing volunteers for 3 building dates, as well as a \$5,000 donation. Derek replied that we are not in a position at this time to make such a commitment, however we may be able to support the projects by providing sandwiches for the workers.

Transition Update

- **Promotional Video**

- The Search Committee and Katie are working together with a videographer who is scheduled for March 22, 2020 for 4 hours to capture St. Mark's "as we are". The video will include segments from parish activity before and after the 10:00 service, as well as short interviews with parishioners. The video will be put on our website and will be helpful for recruiting, as well as attracting visitors and new members.

Rector's Report

- **Response to Coronavirus from the Diocese**

- We have adopted the precautionary practices communicated by the Diocese to combat the spread of the coronavirus. Parishioners will be educated that sipping from the cup is less risky than intinction. Fr. Gaston will inform the parish that receiving the bread is entirely sufficient for communion in case we stop offering the cup.

- **Seasonal Liturgies and Programs**

- **Ash Wednesday**
 - Both services were evenly attended.
- **Lenten Plain Style**
 - During Lent we will have an unadorned altar.
- **Lenten Series**
 - "The Devil, You Say" Lenten series has begun and is very well received by the parish.

- **Current Provisional Rota**

- Fr. Gaston distributed the current Rota through July 26, 2020.
- Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00pm.
- Good Friday Liturgy will be at 12:15pm and Stations of the Cross at 1:00pm.
- In Fr. Gaston's absence, Percy Grant will officiate on Pentecost. On Trinity Sunday, Bruce Hixon will lead Morning Prayer.
- On July 12, 2020 we will use Rite 1 for our service.
- Combined services for the summer will begin on Pentecost.

- **Sanctuary Grande Survey**

- There are 4 parishioners who live at Sanctuary Grande on Applegrove St. We may ask them if they would be interested in a once-a-month 12:00 noon Eucharist held at Sanctuary Grande, or a Wednesday 3:00pm Evening Prayer.

- **Update on Fr. Sloan**

- Fr. Gaston has been visiting Fr. Sloan in Mercy Medical Center. He has taken communion to him and noted his weakened condition. Although unable to take communion orally, Fr. Sloan co-officiated with Fr. Gaston at Eucharist for his family that was present in the hospital, which brought him great joy.

Other Business

- **Voting**

- Per discussion at the February Vestry meeting, Derek notified the Stark County Board of Elections that the 2020 general Election in November will be the last Election in which St. Mark's serves as a polling location.

- **Altar Flowers**

- On behalf of the Altar Guild, Rhonda explained that we will not use bright flowers and floral arrangements during Lent. Instead, we are using 4-foot-tall forsythia branches which will remain on the altar and be watered regularly throughout Lent. New greenery will be added weekly. They are starting to bloom and will be planted on the church grounds after Lent.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:40pm.

The next meeting is Wednesday April 1, 2020 at 5:30pm. Beck will provide the devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Violand
Clerk