

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2023

Present: Fr. RJ, Leslie Redmon, Sr. Warden; John Willoughby, Jr. Warden; Kent Clark, Carol Hayn, Joe Hoot, Mandy Pelger, Sara Strattan, Rick Werren

Not Present: Gene Little

Guests: Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with devotion and prayer provided by Mandy.

Leslie **motioned** to accept the minutes of the October 4, 2023, meeting. Joe seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Wardens' Reports

- **Senior Warden**
 - The Blessing of the Animals in October was a fun event and well attended.
 - Our next Intergenerational Service will be Sunday, December 3, 2023, and will be followed by a luncheon.
 - Leslie attended the Trick or Treat event at Gibbs School.
 - In November the Lion's Pause will contain short articles by choir members to promote choir membership.
 - Leslie will attend the Diocesan Convention on November 11, 2023.
- **Junior Warden**
 - John emphasized the importance of keeping our Facebook page updated. Katie has reissued sharing instructions.
 - The offering basin should sit on the pedestal in the sanctuary at 8:00 and then needs to be taken up front before the 10:00 service. Because offering plates are passed at 10:00, there should not be one on the pedestal at 10:00.

3rd Quarter Financials

- Charlie presented the Third Quarter Financial Recap and noted that pledge donations are understated because the Diocese is behind in informing us of pledges made through their online giving portal.
- The 2024 budget will be presented at the January Vestry meeting. This will allow us to have current information from the Diocese.
- The January Vestry meeting may be rescheduled from January 3 to January 10 for budget review purposes.

Rector's Report

- **New Member Classes**
 - New Member classes have been completed. Recordings and class notes are available for anyone who wants them.
 - We now have at least 8 people who are waiting to be confirmed or received.
 - Fr. RJ has asked the Diocese how soon we can have a Bishop visit. Some of the new members may want to be Vestry members or Eucharistic Ministers but must be confirmed or received first.

- **Hope Outreach**
 - On the third Sunday of each month, 4-6 people are needed from 11:30 to 1:30 to help serve cafeteria-style lunch at Hope Outreach. Another church had been doing this and is no longer, so St. Mark's would like to fill the need.

Old Business

- **Meeting Our Objectives**
 - There are 8 people who want to be confirmed or received.
 - Attendance is continuing to increase and we are approaching our goal.
- **Buildings and Grounds Update**
 - The new fire panel will be installed next week.
 - In an effort to decrease our mowing costs, Joe proposed extending the woods line to the hill and also letting some appropriate areas go wild and planting them with pollinator-attracting plants. Joe will investigate further and get estimates on the costs.
- **Stewardship Committee Update**
 - The Stewardship dinners were well-attended and well-received by the parish.
 - Pledge materials will be mailed to people who did not attend the dinners.
 - Thank-you notes will be given to Vestry members at the December meeting to sign and send to parishioners who pledged.
- **Committee Connections**
 - Reports from the various Committee Chairs were presented.
 - Most committees are doing well and do not need anything from the Vestry at this time.
 - The 70th Anniversary Committee is meeting.
 - Bill Rand will take pictures whenever we want, but we need to let him know ahead of time so he will have his camera with him.

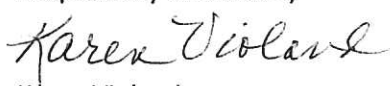
New Business

- **Housing Allowance Letter**
 - Sara **motioned** to adopt the following Housing Allowance Resolution: *"Of the salary paid to Ronald A. Johnson for calendar year 2024, \$30,000 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and is further resolved that the designation of \$30,000 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2024 and all future years unless otherwise provided."* Carol seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.
- **Sunday School Gift**
 - John Willoughby is going to give a Christmas gift of a creche ornament to each of the Sunday School children.
- **Annual Meeting January 28**
 - The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 28, 2024.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm with a **motion** by Carol, seconded by Leslie, and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 6:00pm. Sara will provide the Reflection and Prayer for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Violand
Clerk