

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

Present: Fr. RJ, Leslie Redmon, Sr. Warden; John Willoughby, Jr. Warden; Carol Hayn, Joe Hoot, Rick Werren (phone)

Not Present: Kent Clark, Gene Little, Mandy Pelger, Sara Strattan

Guests: Charlie Kiesling, Treasurer

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with devotion and prayer provided by Fr. RJ in Mandy's absence.

John **motioned** to accept the minutes of the September 6, 2023, meeting with a few date corrections. Leslie seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Wardens' Reports

- **Senior Warden**

- New directories have been printed and it is nice to see new additions.
- Leslie thanked Fr. RJ for the September 24 service in the outdoor chapel, as well as Joe and Rick for managing the setup. It was good to see that the entire back row of benches was filled. Decorative stones painted by St. Mark's Sunday School children and Weaver students have been placed in the chapel.

- **Junior Warden**

- Weaver had asked if anyone from the parish would like to volunteer to be lunch monitors on Tuesdays. Fr. RJ may volunteer.
- Charlie attended a Weaver meeting with Geoff and learned that the padded chairs in the undercroft may not pass a Health Dept. inspection, so they are not being used by Weaver.
- Weaver intends to put a small storage container outside the kitchen for items that are in the hallway. It will be put where we have previously approved a storage shed.

Rector's Report

- **Congregational Vitality**

- Sara had asked Fr. RJ for a list of signs of congregational vitality for a grant request she was writing, and he shared it with the Vestry.
 - Quarterly Intergenerational Services have been well received with good attendance.
 - Sunday School has assembled more than 1,000 hygiene kits of soap and a washcloth for Hope Outreach as an outreach project.
 - There have been 14 new households of various ages added to the parish over the last couple years.
 - Average Sunday attendance through September has increased over last year by 11 people, which represents an 18% increase.
 - The Betty Fortney Outdoor Chapel has been renovated.
 - Our Fellowship events are being attended by new people.
 - Our building is being well-maintained and is in use during the week.
 - The congregation is participating in outreach to Gibbs School.

Old Business

- **Meeting Our Objectives**
 - We have an improved relationship with Weaver.
 - Fr. RJ is working with Bob on selecting more familiar music.
 - As we work toward a balanced budget, our goal is to be ahead of what was projected.
 - The activity level in the church has increased and we need to promote that we do outreach.
- **Buildings and Grounds Update**
 - With help from the Lazarus Committee, we removed some bushes, tall grass, and a diseased tree, and the area has been replanted.
 - The floor of the Columbarium has been refurbished.
- **Stewardship Committee Update**
 - The Stewardship dinners will be held on Wednesday, October 11 and Thursday, October 19. It will be stressed that Stewardship involves participation as well as money.
 - Joe will be retiring from the Stewardship Committee and the Chairmanship of the Committee at the end of the year. Current members of the Committee are Joe, Linda Deuble, Pam McCarthy, and Fr. RJ.
- **Committee Connections**
 - Vestry members were reminded to check with their committee chairs and look back at the three questions they were asked at the beginning of the year regarding what they are doing, what they need, and how the church can support them.
 - Committee chairs need reminded to turn in their reports for the Annual Meeting.
- **End of Life Materials**
 - Document edits from a previous review have been made and were approved by Fr. RJ, Leslie, and John.
 - John **motioned** that the Vestry approve the printing and distribution of the End of Life materials. Joe seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

New Business

- **Convention Delegates**
 - The Annual Convention will be held in Wooster on November 10 and 11, 2023.
 - Carol **motioned** to empower Fr. RJ to approve this year's convention delegates. John seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.
- **New Vestry Members 2024**
 - Fr RJ asked for suggestions for new Vestry members.
 - Mandy, Carol, and Gene will be rotating off the Vestry.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm with a **motion** by John, seconded by Leslie, and approved unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 6:00pm. Mandy will provide the Reflection and Prayer for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen Violand
Clerk