

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Vestry**  
**May 25, 2023; held in the Library**

1. Fr. Christopher declared a **quorum** and called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. Vestry members in attendance were: Fr. Christopher McLaren, Rector; Dave Aley, Diane Ball, Ty Camp, Blythe Clark, Darcie Farrow, George McJimsey, Lucy Sinkular and Amanda Wright. Absent Vestry members were Barry Hogge. Clerk Deb Bluestone was present. There were no visitors.
2. Fr. Christopher conducted **Spiritual and Relational Formation** as an informal sharing session of Vestry members from 6:30 pm until the meeting was called to order.
3. Blythe made a motion to pass the **consent agenda**. The motion was duly seconded, and the agenda consisted of acceptance of the April 27, 2023 Vestry Minutes and receipt of the April 2023 Financial Reports. **The motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Reports of Officers, Boards & Standing Committees:**
  - a. Clergy Report: Fr. Christopher
    - i. Deacon David is currently taking vacation time.
    - ii. The "Summer of Conversation" starts up again this coming Sunday, May 28.
    - iii. Fr. Christopher and Maren are taking vacation time starting at the end of June, no later than July 1.
    - iv. Fr. Christopher is planning a sabbatical, length TBD (perhaps 4 months), probably during Summer 2024. The Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande "Clergy Sabbatical Policy" was circulated to the Vestry for review.
    - v. The date of the Celebration for Karen McDaniel, Altar Guild Directress, is still pending. It is now looking to be held in the fall
    - vi. Interviews are still underway for the Director's position for the school. A decision will be made next Tuesday, May 30.
  - b. Senior Warden Report: Lucy
    - i. Lucy wrote a draft of an email to St. Mark's Clergy emphasizing the importance of vacation time and extending Vestry support so Clergy can have needed restorative time. The letter has been circulated to the Vestry for review. A motion was made that the Vestry authorize submitting the final version to St. Mark's Clergy. The motion was duly seconded, and **the motion passed unanimously.**
    - ii. The date under consideration for Celebration of the Charmuzel Dudt Gift is tentatively scheduled for a time in June (possibly Sunday, June 11) with refreshments after the service, and, as Charmuzel was an English professor, a few people may be asked to read poems and possibly some Shakespeare.
    - iii. Vestry Commissions status report and update (*see table below*): there was a question from Diane about protocols for getting started. Fr. Christopher replied that there are no protocols, but they can be discussed as needed. Darcie noted that she needs contact information for those parishioners associated with the ministry of Community Life/Celebrations, which Lucy offered to provide. Fr. Christopher

remarked that Vestry member commissions are one way that St. Mark's is rebuilding things that were "lost" during COVID.

<b>Commissions for Each Vestry Member</b>	
<i>Building the Future at St. Mark's</i>	
<b>Area of Ministry or Responsibility</b>	<b>Person</b>
Senior Warden	Lucy
Jr. Warden – Facilities	Ty
Stewardship	Lucy
Finance	Barry
Servants of Worship	
Altar Guild	George
Acolytes	
AV	
Chalice Bearers & Eucharistic Ministers	Lucy/Katey Breen
Adult Formation	Diane
Lectors for Worship	
Youth and Family Ministry	
Hospitality/Fellowship	
Pastoral Care	Deb
Personnel/HR	
Welcoming, Membership. "Invite + Welcome + Connect"	
Community Life/Celebrations	Darcie
Arts and Music	
Outreach Ministry	

c. Junior Warden Report: Ty & Fr. Christopher

- i. There is now a St. Mark's Facility Tracking spreadsheet on Google Drive. Jennifer created it to track project status, because there are so many things going on. Categories such as Vendors and Contact Info can be added, and it is searchable. Items that make it to this report may eventually become Vestry agenda items.
- ii. Jennifer and Chris are working on the purchase of playground shades.
- iii. New shelving will be built for the Parish Hall closet on June 6. Many unusable items are being removed from the closet or discarded, and what remains will be reorganized. There are still many items in the closet from pre-COVID times, and efforts are being made to get them back to their owners.
- iv. The Classroom #2 remodel is well underway.
- v. Fix-It Group: Stretch Cole and Bill Cole have been finished the hangars in the Nave, trim around the outside posts (some rotting wood), and trim around the south windows. Hopefully more people can drawn into this activity.
- vi. A solo show of paintings by Allen Lowery has been hung in the Library. Things were hung so that holes did not have to be drilled in the walls.

- d. Report of the Building Renewal Committee (BRC): Lucy
  - i. Tonight the BRC interviewed the second architect, and there were really positive outcomes. This second architect has worked on over 200 church projects, and he is a Lutheran minister turned architect. The BRC is working hard and continuing to solicit input from Parishioners.
- e. Finance Committee: Barry
  - i. There are no motions this month. The transition to the new church Business Manager, Laura Blum, is going well. Ken is still the Treasurer for the school and can also substitute for Laura when needed.
- 5. **Unfinished Business:** Fr. Christopher
  - a. No unfinished business.
- 6. **New Business:**
  - a. Fr. Christopher shared that St. Mark's once had a Sabbatical Policy, and the Vestry approved it, but it is "MIA" - no copy of it was put with the minutes, so it needs to be remade. Over the summer the task is to come up with a working Sabbatical Policy for Clergy. (Shortly after these comments, Blythe located – with her phone – the first draft of the St. Mark's Sabbatical Policy from 2017.)
  - b. There is no Vestry meeting in June. July 20 was agreed upon as the next Vestry meeting date.
- 7. **Announcements & Upcoming Events:**
  - a. As mentioned previously (*see above, 4.a.ii.*) the annual Summer of Conversation will be underway before the beginning of June.
  - b. The June 29 Vestry meeting has been canceled (*see above, 4.a. iii.*)
  - c. The Parish camp-out is scheduled for the weekend of July 28-30.
  - d. As mentioned previously (*see above, 6.b.*) the next Vestry meeting will be Thursday evening July 20, 2023 @ St. Mark's.
- 8. **Closing Prayer:** Fr. Christopher read the "Prayer for Evening" from *The New Zealand Prayer Book*.

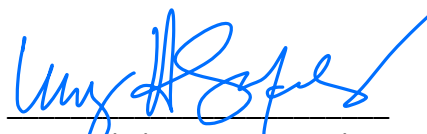
Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

These minutes are respectfully submitted by Deb Bluestone, Clerk to the Vestry.

**MINUTES APPROVED:**



Fr. Christopher McLaren, Rector



Lucy Sinkular, Senior Warden