

**St Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Vestry**  
**February 23, 2023; held in the library**

1. Fr. Christopher McLaren recognized a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. Vestry members in attendance were: Fr. Christopher McLaren, Rector; Dave Aley, Diane Ball, Ty Camp, Blythe Clark, Darcie Farrow, Barry Hogge, George McJimsey, Lucy Sinkular, and Amanda Wright. Clerk Deb Bluestone was present. There were no visitors. No Vestry members were absent.
2. ***Spiritual and Relational Formation*** began the meeting, with Fr. Christopher leading the vestry in *Prayer for Early Evening*. The reading was 1 Cor. 12, addressing spiritual gifts. All those present were asked to share and reflect on the results of their individual Spiritual Gifts Assessments tool and considered alignment of volunteer work aligning with gifts.
3. Fr. Christopher called for a point of personal privilege and handled **agenda items 6a and 6b next**.
  - a. Fr. Christopher appointed Lucy Sinkular as Senior Warden for her third year of service in this position.
  - b. Fr. Christopher nominated Ty Camp to serve as Junior Warden. The nomination was seconded, and Ty was elected by acclamation.
  - c. Deb Bluestone was nominated as Clerk to the Vestry; Miranda Eastham was nominated to serve as Treasurer for the church; Ken Reese was nominated to serve as Treasurer for the St. Mark's Montessori School. All were elected **by acclamation**.
4. A motion was made by Blythe Clark to pass the **consent agenda**. This consisted of acceptance of the January 19, 2023 Vestry Minutes; receipt of the January 29, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes (approved by a special committee of Fr. Christopher & Lucy); and receipt of the January 2023 Financial Reports. The motion was seconded and **passed unanimously**.
5. **Reports of Officers, Boards & Standing Committees:**
  - a. Clergy Report: Fr. Christopher
    - i. Laura Blum has been hired part-time to fill Ken Reese's position as church Business Manager.
    - ii. Sunday, February 26, the Building Committee survey results will be reported to parishioners after the service, with opportunities for people to react to the results and ask additional questions.
    - iii. Brett Braud is reshaping the Flower Guild by building a team of arrangers, and teaching aesthetics and purchasing practices.
    - iv. Lenten preparations include a books and devotionals table, several class offerings, and resources for prayer practices.

- v. Per outgoing Junior Warden Laurel Cabral, art has been rehung and respaced in the sanctuary, with room made between the icons for two sets of Stations of the Cross (prints by Charlie Aldrich and paintings by Marcel Vározy).
- b. Senior Warden Report: Lucy Sinkular
- i. Welcome to New Vestry Members: Dave Aley, Darcie Farrow, and Amanda Wright
  - ii. Primary Calling – to tend to our spiritual health and growth as we care for St. Mark’s and its future – the Vestry is not a “secular” board.
  - iii. Desire for each member of the Vestry to develop responsibilities for – or involvement in – areas coinciding with spiritual gifts and strengths.
  - iv. General Roles and/or Areas of Vestry Involvement from other Parishes:
    - Sr. Warden
    - Jr. Warden – Facilities
    - Stewardship
    - Finance
    - Planned Giving/Major Gifts
    - Adult Formation
    - Youth and Family Ministry
    - Hospitality/Fellowship
    - Pastoral Care
    - Personnel/HR
    - Welcoming/Membership/Invite+Welcome+Connect
    - Community Life Celebrations
    - Arts and Music
    - Human Rights and Social Justice Ministries
    - Outreach

Fr. Christopher said that the Vestry should review the list to see where each member might feel called to be involved and where he or she could be effective. Vestry should consider roles that fit a natural giftedness. The Vestry itself does not have to cover every one of these areas, but the Vestry is responsible for knowing that things are covered by other parishioners.
  - v. General expectations for members of any board (be prepared, welcome varying viewpoints, have honest and respectful discussions, when a decision is made by the body – support it regardless of “which side” of deliberations you were on.) Fr. Christopher spoke to “corrosive behavior” and how divisions get started, for example, when members who vote differently from the majority talk outside of the Vestry. At the same time, a little opposition can lead to better decisions.
  - vi. Explanation of St. Mark’s Google Docs Drive.

- vii. The *2023 Vestry Schedule* and *Vestry Contact Information List* were circulated and it was noted that 2023 Vestry meetings are not always on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday
- c. Junior Warden Report: Fr. Christopher
  - i. Contractors have been looking at the church bathrooms.
  - ii. The church has received a \$120,000 facilities' grant for the bathrooms in the SMMS from the State of NM and the first half of the grant is coming in.
- d. Stewardship Committee Report: Fr. Christopher notes 142 *households* are contributing over \$572,000. By comparison, last year's pledging was \$488,000. The 2023 church budget has ended up with a \$27,000 surplus overall.
- e. Finance Committee – Motion out of Committee, below: Lucy Sinkular presented the Finance Committee recommendation that the Vestry designate the \$21,505.14 in the Temp Restricted account as follows:\*
  - i. \$6212.48 to the Misc Outreach account
  - ii. \$15,292.66 to the General Capital account

The discussion included the point that if the Vestry designates money to a purpose, the Vestry retains authority to reallocate the money if needed in the future. Such designations are not controlling as is a Donor Restricted gift, where the person says how the gift must be used. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

- f. Building Renewal Committee – Purpose Statement: Lucy Sinkular  
After a review of the Purpose Statement, Lucy said she will add a Building Committee folder to the St. Mark's Google Docs drive.

5. **Unfinished Business:** None.

6. **New Business:**

- a. \*\*handled earlier, see item 3
- b. \*\*handled earlier, see item 3
- c. At the January 2023 Vestry Meeting, we identified topics for consideration and/or action this year. Fr. Christopher said will work with the Junior Warden on the issues below and on matching parishioners to assist who may have unique talents in these areas. First, Church parking lot (West lot); second, installing new coffee stations in Parish Hall and finally, obtaining tables and chairs to accommodate more people in the Parish Hall.

7. **Announcements & Upcoming Events:**

- a. Next Vestry Meeting: **Thursday, March 30, 2023 @ St. Mark's.**
- b. Scott and Lucy Sinkular are planning a Vestry/family gathering at their home, invitation forthcoming.

- c. Fr. Christopher is beginning to plan and prepare for his Sabbatical. A cohesive Vestry working as a team and who is connected to all areas of parish life will help that go smoothly for all.

**Closing Prayer:** Fr. Christopher.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

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

**MINUTES APPROVED:**



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Fr. Christopher McLaren, Rector



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Lucy Sinkular, Senior Warden