

St Mark's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Vestry
January 19, 2023; held in the Library

1. Senior warden Lucy Sinkular declared a **quorum** and called the meeting to order at 6:14pm. Vestry members in attendance were: Fr. Christopher McLaren, Rector; Diane Ball, Ty Camp, Blythe Clark, Laurel Leisher-Cabral, George McJimsey, and Lucy Sinkular. Absent Vestry members were: Aric Elsenheimer, Barry Hogge, and Melanie Peterson. Clerk Deb Bluestone was present. There were no visitors.
2. A motion was made by Ty and was seconded to pass the **consent agenda**. This consisted of acceptance of the November 17, 2022 Vestry Minutes; acceptance of the December 15, 2022 Vestry Minutes; receipt of the January 30, 2022 Parish Annual Meeting Minutes (Approved by Committee); and receipt of the December 2022 Financial Reports. **The motion passed unanimously.**
3. Fr. Christopher conducted **Spiritual Formation**, asking those present to “beta test” (using phones or laptops) the Building Committee’s initial survey of the congregation so that the survey team can use the data to see if the survey form works properly.
4. **Reports of Officers, Boards & Standing Committees:**
 - a. Clergy Report: Fr. Christopher
 - i. The last of the pledge calls are being finished. \$20K+ in pledges were secured just this week.
 - ii. Final details being worked out for annual meeting, which will be held during the 1/29/23 service, to include the Vestry election.
 - iii. The uptick in pledging will support a cost-of-living increase for church staff.
 - iv. There will probably be a 25% tuition increase for SMMS next year.
 - b. Stewardship Committee Report and pledge update: Fr. Christopher
 - i. As of 1/19/23, total pledging stands at \$555K (130 total pledges). There are still 17 families to contact.
 - c. Senior Warden Report: Lucy
 - i. New Vestry Clerk: Deb Bluestone
 - ii. Community of Past Vestry Members still at St. Mark’s
 - iii. Recognition for Outgoing Vestry (Aric, Laurel, and Melanie)
 - iv. Update on Vestry and Delegate slates (Dave Aley, Darcie Farrow, Amanda Wright for Vestry; Laurel Leisher-Cabral for Diocesan Delegate)
 - d. Junior Warden Report: Laurel

There has been an assessment of the church organ. Also, Laurel recommends that the Vestry be given a tour of the basement.

- e. Finance Committee Business: Fr. Christopher & Lucy
 - i. Fr. Christopher first addressed the SMMS 2023 Budget as presented by the Finance Committee. Fr. Christopher remarked about potential for staff morale issues if \$28-per-hour pay loses the \$3 contribution from the Governor (bringing it down to \$25). All lead teachers will be paid full-time and work full-time (40 hours per week). Some discussion of health care. Ty made the motion to approve the budget. ***The motion passed unanimously.***
 - ii. Fr. Christopher next addressed the St. Mark's 2023 Budget (ref V7.1) – Fr. Christopher reported that the budget doesn't reflect today's pledges, and needs only an additional \$2K to become positive. He noted that the budget has a very large COLA increase, taking everyone up 9%, and twice the money for outreach. An assistant organist (John) has been added to staff, with 9 calls per quarter. The budget is \$8K over the pledged amount for last year. Lucy made a motion to modify the budget as circulated earlier to reflect these new pledges. The motion to modify the budget was seconded, and **passed unanimously**. After discussion the motion to adopt the budget as modified **passed unanimously**.
 - iii. Lucy addressed the Finance Committee recommendation that the deficit of \$3,798 from the 2022 Ireland Pilgrimage should be paid from the temporary restricted account. Diane moved to pass the recommendation and **the motion passed unanimously**.

 - f. Report of the Building Renewal Committee: Fr. Christopher
Fr. Christopher, Laurel, and Lucy are on the Building Committee. Fr. Christopher reported that the committee has met three times, and that there are 12 people total on the committee. Committee objectives include a congregational survey, architect search, a review of aspects that will widen the welcome – including accessibility, seating and acoustics. The majority of the work is focused on the worship space, particularly the instrument (organ). The committee wants the space to be flexible so that it can be used in different ways. The committee will share its “purpose statement” with the vestry.
5. **Unfinished Business:**
- a. Vestry members signed housing allowances and affiliated clergy licenses, which were previously approved at the December 2022 Vestry meeting.
6. **New Business:**
- a. Hospitality points: Ty raised a concern that the coffee ministry needs more volunteers, and Fr. Christopher shared thoughts about plumbing for some big coffee makers at 2 new beverage stations to be installed at each end of the

Parish Hall. The February Vestry meeting agenda should include time to discuss the church parking lot, new coffee stations, and how we can better resource hospitality (there are not enough tables and chairs in the Parish Hall, for example, and comments about the amount of sweet snacks vs. savory). Fr. Christopher will work on a quote for more tables and chairs.

- b. Fr. Christopher introduced the new rolling cart for book exchanges, parked outside of the Parish Hall. A little offering plate on the cart will be used for money for people needing to buy books for classes.

7. **Announcements & Upcoming Events:**

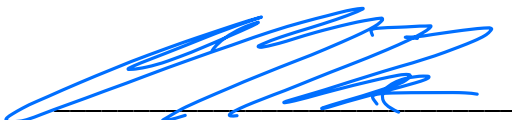
- a. **75th Anniversary** of first liturgy. February 8, 1948 – First Holy Communion celebrated by St. Mark’s in the store that is now the Albuquerque United shop. Sunday, February 9 will mark 75 years for St. Mark’s – next year we could make a deal out of our 75th Anniversary at Annual Meeting.
- b. **Next Vestry Meeting:** Thursday, February 23, 2023.
- c. **Parish Annual Meeting:** January 29, 2023
Fr. Christopher – further comments on Annual Meeting – percentage of participation is what’s important, which is why it’s being included as part of the 9:30 service.

Closing Prayer: Father Christopher.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

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

MINUTES APPROVED:



Fr. Christopher McLaren, Rector



Lucy Sinkular, Senior Warden