

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Vestry
September 28, 2023; held in the Parish Library

1. Fr. Christopher declared a **quorum** and called the meeting to order at 6:16pm. Vestry members in attendance were Fr. Christopher McLaren, Rector; Ty Camp, Blythe Clark, Darcie Farrow, George McJimsey, Lucy Sinkular, and Amanda Wright. Absent Vestry members: Dave Aley, Diane Ball, and Barry Hogge. Clerk Deb Bluestone was present. There were no visitors.
2. Fr. Christopher conducted a "working" **Spiritual and Relational Formation**. All members present took a few minutes to use their phones to record a 30-second video responding to the question "what feeds your soul at St. Mark's?", or "what is your experience of St. Mark's now?", or to "talk about your involvement in this faith community and what that means to you."
3. Lucy made a motion to pass the **consent agenda**. The agenda consisted of acceptance of the August 30, 2023, Vestry Meeting minutes and receipt of the August 2023 Financial Reports for St. Mark's Church and St. Mark's Montessori School. ***The motion was duly seconded and passed unanimously.***
4. **Reports of Officers, Boards & Standing Committees:**
 - a. Clergy Report: Fr. Christopher
 - i. Architect Paul Barribeau of the Groth Design Group visited from Wisconsin this past Sunday, September 24. In addition to giving a presentation at the end of the service, 135 people stayed after the service for a lunch and community meeting. Over the weekend, he met separately with about 70 people, including members of the Vestry, flower guild, AV team, and Outreach Committee, as well as youth, readers, ushers, and kitchen helpers, and was given tours of St. Mark's and the Albuquerque metro area. Fr. Christopher noted that Mr. Barribeau "did a good job pastorally," and that he understands liturgical worship, adding that Mr. Barribeau has a seminary degree and is a faithful worshiper at his Lutheran place of worship.
 - ii. An All-Parish Work Day with Cub Scout Troop 990 is scheduled for Saturday, September 30 from 9:00am to 12 noon at St. Mark's.
 - iii. Bishop Michael Hunn of the Diocese of the Rio Grande will visit St. Mark's for the Sunday, November 5 service.
 - iv. Fr. Christopher reported on the diocese clergy conference just finished.
 - b. Senior Warden Report: Lucy

Lucy provided an update on her review of the Diocese of the Rio Grande by-laws and Canons and those of our Parish. There is nothing to prohibit a person from serving a fourth year as Senior Warden. The vestry previously recognized a fourth year with Lucy as Senior Warden would provide needed continuity during the sabbatical time taken by Fr. Christopher in 2024 coinciding with the Building Renewal Committee's efforts.

- c. Stewardship Committee: Fr. Christopher/Lucy
 - i. This year's effort has been ad hoc and by virtual meetings. We'd like to form a solid committee for next year.
 - ii. The annual Stewardship "Pledge and Pancakes" Celebration Sunday is scheduled for October 29.
 - iii. Materials for the Fall 2023 Campaign are in process.
- d. Junior Warden Report: Ty
 - i. A new TV monitor has been installed in Stoney Chapel, but needs to be resized.
 - ii. Wireless is almost ready for installation in Stoney Chapel.
 - iii. Parishioner Liz Reardon is drawing up a plan for re-landscaping of the St. Mark's East entrance.
 - iv. The AV desk computer has been replaced, and a lock box for the computer will be installed.
- e. Building Renewal Committee (BRC): Fr. Christopher
 - i. A recommendation from the BRC's September 12, 2023 meeting is that the Vestry should modify the Liturgical Design Consultant (LDC) Agreement so that Robert Habiger's task of liturgical furniture design be shifted from Phase II into Phase I. The benefit is that the Groth Design Group can incorporate these graphics for liturgical furniture into their upcoming presentations to the Parish. This, rather than clip art, will add to the visioning of the project and will help to inspire support. A dollar value is already contracted for \$6,600, but as part of the budget for the Phase II. What is being recommended is "acceleration" (not additional payment) of the previously agreed \$6,600 from 2024 to 2023. Lucy moved that the Vestry approve the BRC's recommendation that \$6,600 be moved from Phase II to Phase I. ***The motion was seconded and after discussion, passed unanimously.***
 - ii. A recommendation from the Finance Committee's September 26, 2023 meeting is that the amount at which two check signers are required be raised from the current level of \$500 to \$1,000. This recommendation was passed unanimously by the Finance Committee at the September 26 meeting, which had a quorum with only two absent members. Lucy moved that the Vestry raise the limit for two check signers from \$500 to \$1,000. ***The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.***

5. **Unfinished Business:**

- a. There was no unfinished business.

6. **New Business:**

- a. Action Items for Vestry Approval/Discussion
 - i. Fr. Christopher noted that in three months the Vestry will need three new members. He said that it is time to start talking with Parishioners who could be solid contributors to the Vestry because, with the building remodel, the church is headed into some challenging times. Therefore, Fr. Christopher wants the most solid, committed Vestry possible, adding that Vestry service "draws you further in and higher up."

- ii. A car allowance or lease for Mother Sylvia is in the idea phase. Fr. Christopher outlined some recent transportation and logistical difficulties for Mother Sylvia which affect her getting to Church activities. The vestry brainstormed various options with wide support; no action yet taken.

7. **Announcements & Upcoming Events:**

- a. Lucy offered to take the lead on a Church raffle basket donation for the St. Mark's Montessori School December 2, Winter Party and fundraiser.
- b. Darcie asked the Vestry to consider a way to thank and recognize the St. Mark's nursery staff for their service.
- c. Fr. Christopher mentioned that Paula Rogers has worked in the St. Mark's nursery for almost 20 years. St. Mark's is looking for another person to help so that Paula can take more breaks. The schedule requires 3.25 hours two Sundays per month (from just before 9:30 to 12:15) at \$15-\$19 per hour, but St. Mark's can pay more if needed. This schedule enables parents to participate in classes and activities after the service. The Church prefers to hire an adult, and there will be a background check.
- d. Important dates include:
 - i. **Saturday September 30, 9:00am to 12 noon**
All-Parish Work Day with Cub Scout Troop 990 and SMMS families
 - ii. **Saturday, October 28, 5:00-8:00pm**
Oktoberfest and Hymn Sing
 - iii. **Sunday, October 29**
"Pledge and Pancakes" Celebration Sunday
 - iv. **Sunday, November 5**
Bp. Hunn Visitation and Special Vestry Meeting after church 12:30-2:30pm
 - v. **Saturday, December 2**
SMMS Winter Party and fundraiser for the school field-trip fund
- e. Next Year's Vestry: terms conclude for Lucy, Barry, and George.
- f. The next regular meeting of the Vestry is **Thursday, October 26, 2023, 6:00pm** at St. Mark's

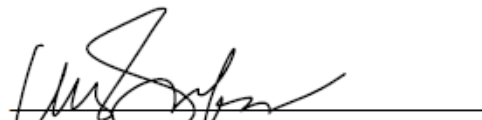
8. **Closing Prayer:** Fr. Christopher

Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

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

MINUTES APPROVED:


Fr. Christopher McLaren, Rector


Lucy Sinkular, Senior Warden