

St. Mark's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Capitol Hill

3rd & A Sts SE,
Washington, DC



Minutes of the Vestry Meeting
September 18, 2016
1:15 p.m.

Present:

Clergy: The Rev. Michele H. Morgan, Priest-in-Charge

Wardens: Senior Warden Peter Sherer, Junior Warden Doris Burton

Vestry Members: Steve Dalzell, Stephanie Deutsch, Thia Hamilton, Fritz Henn, Doug Jackson, Karen Wiedemann,

Officers: Treasurer Andrew Stafford, Manciple Jack Burton, Counsel Michael Knipe

Absent: Vestry Members Martha Huizenga, Beth Mahood, Christina White and Register Mary Cooper

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:20 pm by Peter Sherer, Senior Warden, presiding. Stephanie Deutsch offered the opening prayer followed by Vestry check in:

- Stephanie Deutsch reported the Sunday school year opened today
- Thia Hamilton noted three out of three visitors questioned reported finding us on-line;
- Steve Dalzell reported his daughter Ava attending the opening of "Antigone in Ferguson [MO]" which was a powerful combination of the Greek tragedy and events in that city—it was suggested that we announce the production when it arrives in Baltimore and encourage attendance.

II. Steve Dalzell moved to approve the minutes of the August meeting; Karen Wiedemann seconded. The motion carried without discussion.

III. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Andrew Stafford, Treasurer, reported the August income being greater than expenditures. At the Finance Committee meeting (Sept 13), the first projected 2017 budget was reviewed. He noted the loss of V2020 pledges in 2017 will reduce our ability to pay off the line of credit at National Capitol Bank, leaving about \$75k left to pay when the line expires March 30, 2017. While John Edwards worked very hard to negotiate an extension in the line last March, it is unlikely the bank will extend it another year. Jack Burton suggested a letter go to V2020 pledgers asking them to consider extending their commitment but Michele reminded the Vestry that we do not want to have a negative impact on 2017 budget pledging. The Senior Warden reminded

everyone that we need to be smart about planning for the reduction of this debt as well as the impending mortgage and that Planned Giving, a program still in the discussion stage, will likely propose ways to off-set these costs.

IV. SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: The Senior Warden reported that the parish retreat to Claggett Conference Center has been scheduled for June 17-18, 2017. The good news regarding this date is it will allow the parish to participate in Gay Pride events usually missed. The bad news is that date is Father's Day weekend that may cost us some attendees. There are 150 spaces available in the conference center and in a few cottages.

Peter acknowledged a larger-than-usual number of responses to his article in the Sept 9 *Gospel* regarding Sermon Seminar. A discussion of today's events ensued in which concern was expressed about the continuing lack of discretion and the appropriateness of responses. Michele suggested a 'rector's pop-up forum' instead of the usual general discussion and that was modified by a suggestion that the topic be behavior and responses in Sermon Seminar. Michele agreed that would be a good idea and will discuss timing with the Associate Rector, Justi Schunior.

Peter and Michele reported that plans continue for providing support for a Syrian refugee family later this or early next month. The ECUSA does not place refugees in high-income areas such as DC but the Methodists and Lutherans are working to place a family in our area so we are working with them. Karen Getman and Maureen Shea of the Mid-East Working Group are leading this. Michele suggested we consider going beyond supporting them to building a relationship by, perhaps, breaking the fast with them during Ramadan.

V. JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: Doris Burton reviewed the Junior Warden's Report item re: high expenditures to maintain the HVAC/AC this summer. The (hopefully) last repair came in under estimate. She also reported that Alex Berley, project manager for V2020, considers Shapiro & Duncan, our HVAC maintenance company, to be the best in the DC area.

She reported the Commission on Fine Arts has given approval to the restoration work on the windows, now scheduled to begin Oct 24. The Fabric and Historic Preservation Committees have selected the replacement terrazzo for the nave and that work will begin some time in late October/early November.

The *Praxis* Conference begins Wednesday morning thru Sunday morning and, while most needs are under control, there will likely be some last-minute adjustments. Michele suggested others might be called on to assist and several Vestry members offered.

VI. There was no Old Business.

VII. New Business:

Peter raised the topic of a three-five year strategy for the parish that began a discussion of what we might do to grow the community. Several suggestions/comments were offered:

- We need a 'hook' for Millennials

- Rob Hall 'advertised' St. M when he worked on the Hill in the 90s which drew large numbers of interns
- We need to talk to Millennials to find out what they are searching for
- We need to offer leadership opportunities
- Intern dinners to introduce STM
- "Tucking in with the Gospel" offered by Michele: a way to introduce young children to the Gospel story scheduled for the following day as a 'bed-time' story
- Establish a Sunday school program for the 5 pm congregation
- Offer a toddler-friendly short (20 min) service early on Sundays
- Reach out to the community that surrounds us
- Change Racial Reconciliation Committee to Social Justice as a way of attracting young people interested in doing this work
- "Share what we've been so freely given" as a potential theme
- Hang banners advertising upcoming projects (gun violence vigil, Blessing of Animals, *Missa Gaia*)
- Fliers to neighbors re: Blessing of Animals
- Go to nearby parks to bless animals
- How do we get people to the next level of commitment?
- Review suggestions made at Claggett

VIII. There was a report of a time disruption at 10 am today as food and coffee were located so close together that there was a traffic jam delaying the start of Sermon Seminar. The coffee hour coordinator will ask that the two areas be separated.

Thia Hamilton offered the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
 Doris Burton
 Substitute Register