

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Meeting Minutes**  
**January 20, 2019**

**Opening Devotion:** The meeting was called to order by Rev. John Hall at 11:19 a.m. in Patience Hall at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Rev. Hall led the Vestry in prayer.

**Present:** Jim Bailes, Rob Bluey, Eric Bryda, Charlotte Brown, Rodney Fisher, Rev. John Hall, Pam Hamrin, Kathy Hughes, Nihal Masih, Tracy Tienken, Doug Varner, David Walton. Visiting: Rev. Donna Foughty and Michael Foughty.

**Absent:** Belinda Appiah, Nana Marfo, Velma Scott-Boyle.

**Guests:** Michael Foughty reported on a recent visit to the U.S. Coast Guard facility on Telegraph Road. He noted that the Guardsmen are currently suffering the effects of the partial government shutdown. Coast Guard Mutual Assistance is currently accepting donations. Foughty will submit an announcement for the bulletin.

**Clerk:** Jim Bailes made a motion to accept the December 9, 2018, meeting minutes and Rodney Fisher seconded. The Vestry voted unanimously in approval.

**Bylaws:** Rob Bluey made a motion to approve the Bylaws and Nihal Masih seconded. The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the Bylaws as amended below.

- David Walton offered an amendment to Article IV, Section 4.1.A. and Pam Hamrin seconded. The proposed amendment would add a six-year term limit for St. Mark's trustees. The amendment was defeated.
- David Walton offered an amendment to Article II, Section 2.2.A. and Pam Hamrin seconded. The proposed amendment would add the following language: "no Vestry member can be eligible for election to more than two (2) full terms consecutively." The amendment was approved.
- Jim Bailes offered an amendment to Article II, Section 2.2.D. and Tracy Tienken seconded. The proposed amendment would add the following language: "Unexpired terms shall be filled at the discretion of the Vestry." The amendment was approved.
- Pam Hamrin offered an amendment to Article II, Section 2.4.C. and David Walton seconded. The proposed amendment would add the following language: "On occasion, at the discretion of the Rector or Senior Warden, members of the Vestry may approve any act, either telephonically or electronically, which otherwise might have been taken at a duly constituted meeting, provided that such action taken is recognized in the minutes of next regularly scheduled meeting."

**Nominations:** Rev. Hall provided an update on Vestry nominations for the January 27, 2019, Annual Meeting. Jim Bailes, Rob Bluey, and Charlotte Brown are candidates for three-year

terms. The Vestry voted unanimously to appoint Tracy Tienken to fill the remainder of Doug Varner's term for a period of one year.

**Annual Meeting:** Rev. Hall outlined the agenda for the Annual Meeting in Patience Hall. He will present the latest information and statistics about the congregation and the 2019 budget. Rev. Hall asked members of the Vestry to provide a ½ page of text for the Annual Report by close of business on January 23.

**Treasurer's Report:** Eric Bryda reported that St. Mark's had a surplus of \$8,893.26 for December 2018, resulting in a year-to-date surplus to \$9,075.45 after revisions are made. Jim Bailes made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Nihal Masih seconded. The Vestry voted unanimously in approval.

**2019 Budget:** Eric Bryda presented the 2019 spending plan for St. Mark's. Rob Bluey made a motion to adopt the 2019 Budget and Doug Varner seconded. The Vestry voted 9-1 to approve the 2019 Budget. The Vestry discussed several matters related to the budget below.

- A total of 41 households pledged for 2019 totaling \$164,004. Both numbers are down significantly from 2018 when there were 67 pledges totaling \$213,693. This is likely the result of Rev. John Weatherly's retirement and the transition taking place at St. Mark's.
- This decline in estimated income, combined with higher personnel costs, result in a projected deficit of \$108,074 for the year. Total income is projected to be \$250,650 and total expenses are projected to be \$358,724.
- Rev. Hall suggested members of the Vestry look for opportunities to encourage the congregation to boost its giving by \$1,000 per family. He said each Vestry member could be responsible for outreach to 10 families.
- Rev. Hall, the Wardens and Treasurer will review the current list of Restricted/Designated Funds and recommend to the Vestry how to reduce the total from 33 currently to no more than 5 in the future.
- The 2019 Budget includes \$18,000 for the Discernment Committee to conduct its search for a new rector.

**New Rector:** Charlotte Brown made a motion requesting the Interim Rector, Wardens and Treasurer develop a compensation package for the new Rector; Nihal Masih seconded. The Vestry voted unanimously in approval.

**Senior Warden's Report:** Jim Bailes reported that he signed a contract with Osborne Construction Company of Fredericksburg, Virginia, to replace the roof at a cost of \$53,200 (the Vestry voted on December 9, 2018). Work will begin in April after Easter. Mr. Bailes thanked departing members of the Vestry for their service and announced the dates of the Vestry retreat would be Feb. 23-24 at Roslyn in Richmond, Virginia.

**Junior Warden's Report:** Rob Bluey reported that River Farm Cooperative School abandoned the classroom projected approved at the December 9 meeting and is reconsidering its options.

**Good of the Order:** Vestry members shared the following news and information.

- David Walton reported that Rev. Donna Foughty offered to coordinate and facilitate an evening Bible study during Lent. Rev. Foughty noted that many churches offer evening Bible studies during the Lent. Mr. Walton secured the Vestry's approval for the plan.
- Doug Varner will contact a door repair professional to address the ongoing problems with the front doors in the Narthex.

**Adjournment:** Jim Bailes moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m. Tracy Tienken seconded the motion and the Vestry voted unanimously in approval.

**Closing Devotion:** Rev. Hall led the Vestry in saying the Lord's Prayer.