

St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2020

Opening Devotion: The Rev. Elizabeth Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. via telephone conference and led the Vestry in prayer.

Present: Jim Bailes, Rob Bluey, Eric Bryda, Charlotte Brown, Francisco Escobar, the Rev. Elizabeth Gardner, Mary Jane Stockstill, David Walton. **Absent:** Belinda Appiah, Nihal Masih.

Clerk's Report: Rob Bluey circulated the Feb. 9, 2020, meeting minutes. Jim Bailes made a motion to accept the minutes, Mary Jane Stockstill seconded, and the Vestry voted to approve.

Parochial Report: Rev. Elizabeth completed the 2019 Report of Episcopal Congregations and Missions for St. Mark's. Average Sunday attendance is 94. Mary Jane Stockstill made a motion to accept the Parochial Report, as amended, Charlotte Brown seconded, and the Vestry voted to approve. With certification from the Clerk and Treasurer, the report will be submitted.

Vestry Elections: The slate of candidates for 2020 are Jim Bailes for Senior Warden, David Walton for Junior Warden, Rob Bluey for Clerk, and Eric Bryda for Treasurer. Mary Jane Stockstill made a motion to accept the slate of candidates, Charlotte Brown seconded, and the Vestry voted to approve.

Buildings and Grounds: Charlotte Brown reported there are two trees in need of removal, a large oak tree (removing 20' above ground) and a chestnut oak in the patio left of the entrance. Jim Bailes made a motion to authorize \$4,625 from the Capital Projects Fund to Woodlawn Tree Service, Charlotte Brown seconded, and the Vestry voted to approve.

Senior Warden's Report: Jim Bailes thanked Rev. Elizabeth for supporting St. Mark's during the coronavirus pandemic. He encouraged parishioners to participate in the Sunday service video conference.

Junior Warden's Report: David Walton asked about the status of the Ethiopian church's request to use St. Mark's on Saturdays from 6-9 a.m. The church is currently evaluating the space and cost (\$500 per month). The church would like to use drapes to cover St. Mark's belongings. Rev. Elizabeth said she purchased drapes for the little chapel. Mr. Walton also said the spring cleanup would be delayed due to the coronavirus.

Treasurer's Report: Eric Bryda presented a preliminary draft of the January 2020 Statement of Activities. He said Sareen & Associates has completed the 2018 audit. St. Mark's mortgage refinance is now complete: an eight-year term with a monthly payment of \$1,033.58.

Rector's Report: The Rev. Elizabeth Gardner provided an update on the coronavirus' impact. St. Mark's will continue to participate in a joint Sunday service with other local Episcopal

churches via Zoom video conferencing. St. Mark's will contribute \$65 for one month. She suspects it could be mid-May before services can continue at St. Mark's. She is also exploring options for morning prayer. Rev. Elizabeth is also calling parishioners individually to see how they are doing and providing support. Other updates:

- Fairfax County's Parenting Education Program will not be at St. Mark's until the fall.
- River Farm Cooperative School has temporarily halted instruction at St. Mark's in accordance with Fairfax County Public Schools' decision to close school buildings.
- The Boy Scouts have suspended all activity at St. Mark's until April. Relatedly, Rev. Elizabeth raised the possibility of moving the Boy Scouts' trailer to address the concern of neighbors. A member of the Vestry suggested a fence could also be constructed around the trailer adjacent to St. Mark's Court. The Boy Scouts have a proposed Eagle Scout project to redo fire pit and benches.
- Parish Administrator Becky Sanders will work remotely until it's safe to return.

Adjournment: Jim Bailes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m., Rob Bluey seconded, and the Vestry voted to adjourn.