

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
Vestry (Zoom) Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022, 6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Fr. Chris Jubinski, Diane Stewart, Sandy Wyman, Steve DeCaro, Diane Feil, Madeline Glover, Tom Hadlock, Tom Horan, Marj Kulesa, Ashley McLean, Barbara Pettus, Steve Turner, Carol Fitton

Fr. Chris called the meeting to order with a Prayer for a Church Convention or Meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Check-In Time: Fr. Chris invited Vestry members to share news.

Minutes: a motion was made by Diane S., seconded by Tom Horan to approve the revised minutes from the January 18, 2022 meeting.

Invite, Welcome, Connect Task Force:

Marj reported that the task force with the addition of Carol Jubinski met via zoom. They reviewed notes from the meeting with Canon Woodley and will be prioritizing things to do. The Mens' Breakfast will be the first event and they will be exploring more ideas, including producing a tri-fold with information about SMC. Their next meeting will be in early March.

Sunday School:

Madeline reported that Sunday School has been well received and is going well. They are averaging about 7 children each week, with an age range of 3-12. Lessons are planned around the week's Gospel and they do a craft for the children to take with them. They are also practicing the words to the Lord's Prayer. Sunday School To-Go bags are also available. Things to think about for the future include a program for kids older than 10, since it's a large age gap to have in one group.

Fr. Chris mentioned that he is gathering names of those interested in a Confirmation Class and that will be getting underway in the near future.

Q&A:

- In addition to the info in the Rector's Report (Appendix A), Fr. Chris mentioned that we have hired a part-time bookkeeper (4-8 hours/week) to work with Tom beginning on February 28.
- Tom Hadlock mentioned SMC' participation in the WHB St. Patrick's Day Parade in the past, as well as the fundraising lunch we used to have. Since the parade is on March 12, the consensus was that there was not enough time to take part in an official way.
- Madeline asked about Safe Church Training and Tom Horan said he will be in touch with more recent Vestry members as well as those involved in Sunday School.

Compline and Adjournment: Fr. Chris led the Vestry in Compline, including Psalm 31, before adjourning at 7:26 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting: March 15, 2022. 2022 Vestry meetings are scheduled for April 19, May 17, June 21, no July meeting, August 16, and September 20.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Fitton, Clerk

APPENDIX A: Rector's Report for February 15, 2022

1. Masks—In spite of the recent easing of the mask mandate in New York State, we are still required to wear masks during worship services and other public gatherings inside our buildings. This is meant to be a protection for those who cannot get vaccinated for health reasons. The healthy response when asked by parishioners is that we are doing this as a gift to protect vulnerable parishioners. Also, we are still not permitted to serve food at any functions.
2. Cell Tower Committee—We'll be finishing up our deliberations this coming week. We have been consulting with a lawyer who specializes in these type of deals and she has given us some good advice. Once the committee makes a decision on a final candidate, the proposal will be sent to the Chancellor of the Diocese for review. He will then present this proposal to the Standing Committee at their March meeting.
3. Parish Hall will be unavailable from February 17th all the way through the whole following week. We are finally having floor sanded and revarnished following the damage from the flood last September.
4. The Church Steeple and Roof Contract to begin this work was signed last week. Our project is slated to begin on or around March 21st. The anticipated end date for this project is on or before July 25th.
5. Lenten Study—This Lent we will be reading the book *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* by Rabbi Harold Kushner. We currently have approximately 10 people who are currently attending our weekly studies. During Lent, we will also be using Rite I (the traditional language service) on Sundays.
6. Institution Service—There is still currently no date for when this will take place. I have requested that this service take place sometime after Easter when the weather is nicer. The Bishop has agreed to Confirm and Receive folks at this service.
7. Beinecke Building—Diane and I met with with the head of the diocesan Real Estate Department. They desire us to make as much money on the property as we can so that we would be in a more financially sustainable position. We have shown the building to three new sets of brokers who will determine market value and propose ideas for future use. We have shared our concerns, namely, that the Beinecke Building was gifted to the parish as place where outreach to the community could be conducted. This is concern is falling on deaf ears. In order for a lease to be approved, a recommendation is first written by the real estate head. Then it must be approved by the Bishop, the Standing Committee, and the Trustees of the Diocese.
8. Web Site—It is a work in progress, but I have been able to make some progress on updating it. Please visit it at www.stmarkswhb.org