

# Minutes of the Vestry

St. Mark's Church, Capitol Hill  
November 15, 2009  
Adams Room

## Present:

Clergy: Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector  
Susan Beth Pinkerton, Assistant Rector

Wardens: Kenn Allen, Senior Warden  
John Sedgewick, Junior Warden

Voting Vestry  
Members: Doris Burton, Joe Calizo, Ed Corr, and Vicki Street

Non-Voting  
Officers: Kathryn Powers, Treasurer  
Greg Niblett, Register  
Michael Knipe, Legal Counsel

## Absent:

Voting Vestry: Christine Farrell  
Cecilia Monahan  
Susan Thompson-Hoffman  
Mary Lee Watts

Non-Vestry  
Officers: Ed Cousins, HR Counselor

The Rector, Paul Roberts Abernathy, called to order a special meeting of the St. Mark's Vestry on Sunday, November 15 at 1:15 pm for the purpose of having a discussion with Emily Jo Guthrie, Deacon, to assist the Vestry in its decision about endorsing her candidacy for ordination to the priesthood.

The Vestry of St. Mark's Church was asked to meet and sign the "Endorsement for Ordination to the Priesthood" on behalf of the Reverend Guthrie, which would serve as the Vestry's recommendation to Bishop Chane of the Washington Diocese that he ordain Emily as a priest. The Vestry meeting, discussion, and endorsement is a canonical (church law) procedure, the fulfillment of which is one of the necessary steps that a Bishop considers in his discernment of whether to ordain someone.

Emily was ordained to the diaconate on June 12, 1999. Customarily, a transitional deacon intending to move toward priesthood obtains a position at a parish, serves six months to one year, and then, with the endorsement of the Vestry of the parish in which the deacon serves, is ordained to the priesthood.

In Emily's case, she has come to her discernment of a call to the priesthood after 10 years and without having served in a stipendiary (paying) parochial position. Thus, the Vestry of her parish of membership (St. Mark's) is called to make the endorsement.

After the Rector called the meeting to order, Emily made opening remarks and the Vestry engaged Emily in a conversation about her journey of discernment from diaconate to priesthood, how she envisions her new ministry, where she might serve, in what capacities, and what her long-term vision might be.

After discussion and questions and answers the following endorsement was moved, seconded, and approved by voting members of the Vestry which also constituted a majority as required:

We do certify that, after due inquiry, we are well assured and believe that the Reverend Emily Jo Guthrie, Deacon, since the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year 1990, has lived a sober, honest, and godly life, and has not written, taught, or held anything contrary to the Doctrine, Discipline, or Worship of this Church. And moreover, we think the Reverend Guthrie is a person worthy to be admitted to the SACRED ORDER of PRIESTS.

The endorsement was signed by the Rector, by the seven voting members of the Vestry present (a majority of the Vestry) and certified by the Register in the attached document.

The Rector offered a closing prayer followed by a motion to adjourn which was seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted.

Gregory R. Niblett  
Register

#### Attachments

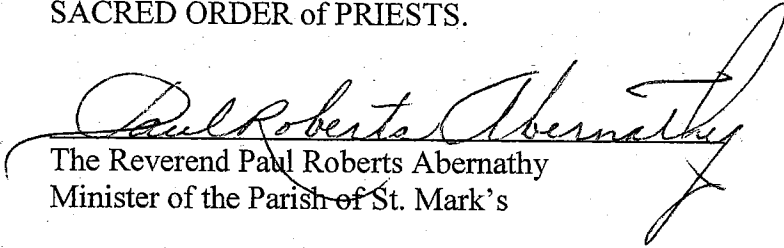
1. Endorsement of Emily Jo Guthrie for ordination to the Priesthood.

# ENDORSEMENT FOR ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD DIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

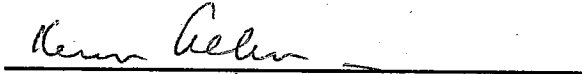
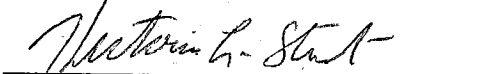


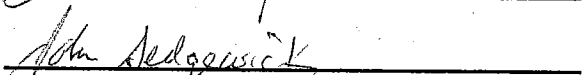
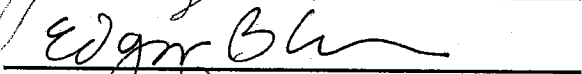

To the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Washington:

PLACE: St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill DATE: Sunday, November 15, 2009

We do certify that, after due inquiry, we are well assured and believe that the Reverend **Emily Jo Guthrie**, Deacon, since the 12<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year 1999, has lived a sober, honest, and godly life, and has not written, taught, or held anything contrary to the Doctrine, Discipline, or Worship of this Church. And moreover, we think the Reverend Guthrie is a person worthy to be admitted to the SACRED ORDER of PRIESTS.

  
The Reverend Paul Roberts Abernathy  
Minister of the Parish of St. Mark's


### VESTRY OF SAID PARISH

	
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or a majority of all members thereof.

### ATTESTATION OF THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry of St. Mark's Parish on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November 2009, and that the names attached are those of all (or a majority of all) the members of the Vestry.

  
(Signature of the Minister of the Parish, Clerk or Secretary of Vestry)