

**MINUTES OF ST. MARK'S VESTRY  
June 26, 2011 at 1:15 pm.**

**Present:**

Clergy: Paul Roberts Abernathy, Rector

Wardens: Cecilia Monahan, Senior Warden; Phil Guire, Junior Warden

Vestry Members: Ed Corr, Bill Dickinson, Rick Hayes, Grady Hedgespeth, Charlotte Murray, Jim Steed, Vicki Street, Janet Vail

Treasurer: Crane Miller

Register: Mary Cooper

**Absent:** Marilu Sherer

1. Call to Order – The Rector called the meeting to order at 1:15.
2. Opening Prayer was offered by Vicki Street.
3. Officer Reports
  - a. Register – Register Mary Cooper presented the minutes of the April 17 meeting, which had been e-mailed in draft form earlier, with corrections incorporated. Rick Hayes moved (Ed Corr seconded) that the minutes be accepted. APPROVED.
  - b. Treasurer – Treasurer Crane Miller distributed a report through June 25 (copy attached), indicating that the situation is generally positive. Crane said that he will be asking the Vestry in the near future to select an Assistant Treasurer to be trained by him to succeed him at the end of his term.
  - c. Junior Warden – Junior Warden Phil Guire reported that there have been two reports that someone is sleeping in the building. Ed Green and his staff have been asked to be extra vigilant for signs of any further such activity. He expressed particular concern for the well-being of the families from the shelter program who are our guests during the summer and asked everyone to make special efforts to assure that all doors are locked when people leave the building after meetings.
  - d. Senior Warden – Senior Warden Cecilia Monahan reported that she had heard only good reports from the Shrinemont Weekend. She noted that renewed attention is needed to the matter of Membership Development and said that the committee responsible for this aspect of parish life is now refocusing and has more clarity of vision.
  - e. The Rector – The Rector reported that 25 people applied for the position of Director of Youth Ministry and three have been interviewed. He and the Committee will make a decision as soon as possible so that there can be some overlap between Megan

Courtney and her successor. He paid tribute to Megan's work in facilitating the search process and others also commended her participation and work at Shrinemont.

4. Vestry Liaison Reports. In addition to the written reports circulated in advance of the meeting, the following comments were made:

- Christian Education – Vicki Street reported that around 100 people attended the Christian Education Gala.
- Finance – Bill Dickinson reported that the Canvass will have two co-chairs, with one to run the following year's Canvass. The Canvass and Capital Campaign will run concurrently. He asked the Vestry to help find a second co-chair before the end of August.
- Community Outreach – Grady Hedgespeth expressed his concern that the parish's community outreach functions do not have high visibility on the website and said that he will request that a separate tab be created for this function so that it is quickly visible.
- Arts – Rick Hayes noted that many congregations were visibly represented (some behind church banners) at the recent Gay Pride March and expressed the hope that St. Mark's would have a delegation there next year, despite the regular schedule conflict with the Shrinemont weekend. The Rector requested that Rick get this matter raised on the public parish agenda for discussion next Spring.

5. Presentation by Community Engagement

Sally Garr Brodhead and Jane Rutherford spoke to the Vestry about Community Engagement (report attached). They reported that the needs in the community are overwhelming and beyond any single group's ability to solve. Jane reviewed the history and work of their group in learning about asset-based community development and doing interviews with community groups (list attached). They noted that our immediate neighborhood is "an island of affluence in a sea of poverty." They requested that St. Mark's make space available to non-profit groups and ask those who use our space to serve the community.

The Rector requested that Phil Guire, Grady Hedgespeth, and Charlotte Murray join him in a study of the recommendations and bring a proposal regarding community engagement to the October Vestry meeting. Janet Vail moved (Bill Dickinson seconded) the creation of this Working Group on Community Engagement and Space Use.

APPROVED.

6. Shrinemont Evaluation

Jim Steed paid tribute to the committee who planned and conducted the Shrinemont weekend. Total attendance included 41 adults, 10 children and three teens. Many people reported that the smaller numbers resulted in more in-depth discussion. Friday evening was reserved for community building. Saturday morning was devoted to Ed Corr's presentation on the possible reshaping and increasing of St. Mark's space. The

balance of the time was spent on discussing the development plans as they relate to parish life. The children (and some adults) presented a delightful Saturday evening entertainment. Jim noted that the registration needs to be automated in order to reduce the workload of parishioners who are now doing the whole process manually.

7. Dance Studio Presentation

Heather Powers, Elin Whitney Smith, and Rosie Brooks made a presentation on behalf of the dance studio and its place within the parish as the redevelopment of the building is contemplated. Rosie (who joined the studio in 1964) addressed the age, body type, and racial diversity in the dance studio. She said the dance program provides an opportunity for community outreach. The rates are lower than in other studios in the area and there are scholarships. No one is turned away for lack of funds. The children's and adult companies perform at institutions in the city, as well as at St. Mark's. Scholarships are also offered to children in the shelter program. Some families are in their third generation with the studio.

The studio currently utilizes 900 square feet of space which is also used at times by the Yoga classes and the choir. The Rector noted that it is important to consider whether we continue to use so much space for that purpose in the new construction.

Janet Vail said that the Finance Committee needs information on the financial management of the dance studio. The Treasurer noted that he gets a monthly statement of the studio account from the bookkeeper but said that funds need to be deposited more promptly.

The Rector observed that the Arts Groups (dance, players, yoga, and the music studio) came into being in different ways at different times with different governances and said that now is the time to clarify some management issues. The Vestry needs to know that best practices are in place and operative.

8. Parish Retreat Review Committee

The Senior Warden announced that she is forming a committee to look at issues related to time and money with regard to the annual parish conference, including what other facilities might be available in addition to Shrinemont. She also suggested that the planning team and the theme for the event be in place annually at the start of the Christian Education year.

9. Approval of Parish Life Pillar and Christian Education Co-Chairs

Rick Hayes moved (Charlotte Murray seconded) that Jack Burton be approved as Parish Life Pillar. APPROVED.

Vicki Street moved (Jim Steed seconded) that Don Ellison and Rita Ossolinski be approved as Christian Education Co-Directors. APPROVED.

10. What's New? What Needs Attention? What's Working? Who Needs Acknowledgment?

July 17, 2011

a. Assistant Rector Housing Allowance: The Rector submitted the following Resolution on the Assistant Rector's Housing Allowance, which had been circulated in advance by e-mail.

***Assistant Rector's Housing Allowance Resolution 2011***

*Whereas, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister of the gospel to exclude from gross income (in computing federal income taxes) a church-designated allowance paid to her as part of her compensation to the extent used by her for actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and*

*Whereas, the Reverend Rebecca Justice (Justi) Schunior, beginning July 1, 2011, is compensated by St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, exclusively for the services as a minister of the gospel; and*

*Whereas, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, does not provide the Reverend Justi Schunior with a church-supplied lodging, therefore, it is hereby*

*Resolved, that \$6,500.00 (six thousand five hundred dollars, being 20%) of the total compensation paid to the Rev. Justi Schunior for the July 1-December 31, 2011 term is hereby designated to be a housing allowance.*

*June 26, 2011*

Charlotte Murray moved (seconded by Janet Vail) approval of the Resolution.  
APPROVED.

b. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be July 17 at 12 noon.

11. Motion to Adjourn was offered by Jim Steed (seconded by Vicki Street).
12. Closing Prayer was offered by Rick Hayes.

Mary Anderson Cooper  
Register