



**SAINT MARK'S**  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

**July Vestry Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
Tuesday, July 27, 2021, 6pm  
Zoom Video Conference

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish people, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Duwamish Tribe.

**Vestry Members Present**

Kristen Austin  
Clara Berg, Junior Warden  
Carmen Brady  
Jim Buskirk  
Karla Koon, Diocesan Member  
Scott Kovacs  
Micah Kurtz, Diocesan Member  
Peter McClung, Senior Warden  
Emily Meeks  
Kathy Minsch  
Katie Prettyman, Diocesan Member  
Marjorie Ringness  
Chris Rigos  
Robert Stevens  
Walter Stuteville, Junior Warden  
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean

**Vestry Members Absent**

The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison, Bishop's Representative

**Officers Present**

Re Knack, Chancellor

**Officers Absent**

Barbara Erickson, Clerk  
Phil Lloyd, Treasurer

**Staff Members Present**

Erik Donner, Executive Assistant to the Dean  
Jim Pannell, Director of Operations

**Guests**

Markova Discernment Committee: Rachel Baker, Colleen Boyns, Christopher Breunig, Emily Coil,  
Richard Gilbert, Lee Halkias, Marilyn Redlich, Michael Seewer  
Graumlich Discernment Committee: Marc Aubertin, Brett Bowton-Meade, Hannah Hochkeppel, Julia  
Logan, Ed Taylor, Julia Wight

### **Call to Order, Land Acknowledgment, Prayer, Review of Agenda**

Steve opened the meeting at 6:00PM with the Land Acknowledgment and a prayer.

### **Special Order of Business**

The Phase 2 Discernment Committee for Lynne Markova presented their report of the meetings with Lynne over the past year and answered questions from the Vestry. After the discernment committee's departure, Lynne joined us and there was more fruitful discussion. **After Lynne's departure, a motion was made and seconded and the Vestry unanimously voted to nominate Lynne for postulancy to the priesthood in the Diocese of Olympia.**

### **Special Order of Business**

The Phase 2 Discernment Committee for Lisa Graumlich presented their report of the meetings with Lisa over the past year and answered questions from the Vestry. After the discernment committee's departure, Lisa joined us and told us more about her desire to serve as a deacon. **After Lisa's departure, a motion was made and seconded and the Vestry unanimously voted to nominate Lisa for postulancy to the diaconate in the Diocese of Olympia.**

### **Consent Agenda**

**The Vestry accepted and approved the minutes from the June 22, 2021 meeting as published.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Formation Consultation Report**

The report provided by formation consultant Jamie Martin-Currie after her several meetings with parishioners and staff earlier this spring was full of good information. A Committee for Intergenerational & Innovative Community Ministries is in the process of forming to begin work on some of the suggestions that came from those meetings and Jamie's report. Jamie's report helped confirm some of the directions already being taken, such as small neighborhood groups. The Dean is taking a long-range (5+ years) view of this report.

#### **Re-opening Planning**

The Dean reported that attendance at the 11am service continues to grow, while the attendance at the 9am service has leveled out somewhat. Vestry members were reminded of the importance of their presence at worship services. The 9:30pm Compline service will open for in-person attendance on August 22. September 12 is slated as "Homecoming" Sunday and will also include the Ministry Fair. The 8am and 7pm Sunday services will also be added back on September 12, and we will resume use of the common cup. All of these plans are subject to change depending on continued guidance from health authorities.

#### **A/V Equipment for Bloedel Hall and CH 210**

Equipment has been purchased with the help from a memorial gift and a congregational development grant, but the equipment is on backorder. The Vestry discussed whether or not to meet in person in Bloedel Hall in August and decided to meet in person, as planned.

#### **The CFDO Audit Report for 2020**

The Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia's 2020 audit report was received last month and is available for review in the Vestry Dropbox, June folder.

#### **St. Nicholas Redevelopment Update**

The redevelopment committee is taking a two-fold approach to investigate the options of developing the property into affordable housing and/or making renovations to the building for possible long-term use by the Saint Mark's community. Work is on-going.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Annual Financial Audit/Review**

The 2020 financial review is delayed, partly because of the transition to QuickBooks. It is expected to be available for review by the August vestry meeting.

### **Vestry Land Acknowledgment Rota for Worship**

A rota for vestry members to take turns saying the land acknowledgment at the beginning of each 9am and 11am Sunday service was filled in for the month of August.

### **St. Nicholas Crack Repair Proposal**

The crack in the brick wall of the south stair tower in the St. Nicholas Building has been investigated and determined to be an isolated issue created by settlement of that particular area when the tower was built on fill at the time of original construction. The repair will involve driving pin piles in the ground and rods into the wall. The crack does not necessitate closure of the building, but the structural engineer advised it does need to be addressed as an urgent matter rather than delaying. **A motion was made and seconded and the Vestry unanimously voted to authorize the expenditure to make the repair, which will hopefully be done before the start of the school year. The cost is estimated to be around \$30,000, but could be as much as \$90,000.**

### **September 11<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Service**

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary service will occur at Saint Mark's at 3pm on 9/11, and will be co-hosted with Temple De Hirsch Sinai, St. James Cathedral, and the Church Council of Greater Seattle. The service will honor the heroic efforts of first responders, not only on 9/11/2001, but also during the recent and ongoing pandemic.

### **Sabbatical Policy**

**In recognition that Saint Mark's staff includes many exceptionally fine employees at the Director level who are not offered sabbaticals under the current sabbatical policy for the Dean and Canons, the Vestry approved unanimously a motion from the Executive Committee to revise the current sabbatical policy to include those in Director positions. The new policy will take effect 1/1/2022.**

## **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

### **Senior Warden's Report**

Peter and Susan took a road trip.

### **Dean's Report**

Canon Nancy Ross will be moving to the San Francisco Bay Area due to her spouse accepting a job there. Her last Sunday with us will be August 22.

The search for the Canon for Intergenerational Ministries is currently underway, and Saint Mark's has received inquiries from many fine candidates.

There will be a blessing of the backpacks on September 3.

Canon Michael Kleinschmidt will return from his sabbatical on August 9.

The Dean will be away on August 1 to preach at Grace, Lopez Island.

The Dean encouraged us all to be sure to express our appreciation to the staff at Saint Mark's—particularly the facilities staff—who have done fabulous work throughout the pandemic, under very stressful conditions.

This meeting was the last for vestry member Robert Stevens, who will be attending seminary beginning this fall at Church Divinity School of the Pacific. We will miss him greatly and wish him well.

**Closing Prayer**

Re offered the closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Ringness  
Vestry Member & Clerk pro tem

Erik Donner  
Executive Assistant

**Dates/Events of note**

8/8—Baptisms on Transfiguration (tr.)

9/3—Family Picnic on Cathedral Lawn and Blessing of the Backpacks

9/11—Interfaith Service of Healing and Hope

9/12—Homecoming Sunday & Ministry Fair

