

Council Update

Your Council has been hard at work. Here is a brief list of some of the projects the Vestry [note: Council and Vestry are terms used interchangeably in this update] has been working on for the last two months. This is not an exhaustive list, rather a brief update on some larger topics and discussions.

We are planning on having a bi-annual meeting on June 2, 2024. At that meeting we will:

1. Have an update of our financial performance using actual, as oppose to forecast, data from our first quarter.
2. Hold an election to fill four open Vestry positions.
3. Present information gathered from community discussions about our Identity as part of our broader work during this transition period.

Episcopal Parish Network

Two Council members and two staff members attended the EPN Conference in Houston earlier this month. Most of the parishes that sent participants are in some sort of a transition or discernment process, so it was particularly helpful at this time. Paul Anton from St. Mark's Foundation suggested we send a delegation, and we are very grateful for his suggestion and support.

Pledge Update

We have been working diligently to communicate with our current pledgers and make sure that everyone is in our pledging system. We have been transitioning to a more secure, but less familiar system since last summer. The staff and Council are working together to streamline the information and ensure the pledging data matches members' intent.

Finance Update

We will present an update in June to the whole community. While there have been positive changes, we are still concerned about meeting the operations budget. We continue making expense cuts and evaluating our options as we work toward our goal of balancing revenue and expenses in 2024.

Council Corner

We are reworking a room to function as a workspace and depository of Vestry information. We hope to create a space for resources and onboarding materials that will facilitate smooth transitions between elections to Council. Currently we are imagining a place where past consulting reports, information about outside resources for council and a central calendar can reside.

Current Committees at St. Mark's seeking membership:

Stewardship

This committee will be responsible for maintaining and updating our existing stewardship campaigns as well as exploring other income opportunities for St. Mark's. Please contact Rachel Babbitt at rjbabbitt@gmail.com

Governance Committee

This committee has general charge of the Governance documents. It will be responsible for the 2024 review and produce an updated version of the Governance Documents of St. Mark's Cathedral. Please contact Esther Agbaje at ea319@gmail.com

Property Committee

The Property Committees general charge and supervision of the physical property of the Cathedral. Please contact Joe Ward at jeward.com@gmail.com

Gather Commission:

The Gather Commission is the face and heart of the parish to new members and visitors, connecting them with the congregation. Interested in building community? Please contact Abby Tillotson at abby.as.always@gmail.com

Finance Committee

The Finance committee is responsible for preparing and submitting the budget. This committee also works with the Treasurer for the care and accounting of the Cathedral's funds. Please contact Jacob Buchen at jjbucher@gmail.com

Council Membership

We will be electing four new members to the Council at a bi-annual meeting in early June. The Governance committee, with support from the Council, will be gathering names of St. Mark's members who are interested in joining the Vestry.

Transition and Dean Search Committees

We will start forming a Transition and Dean's Search Committee after a bi-annual meeting at the end of the Program Year. More information on this will follow.