

**St. Mark's Council Meeting Minutes**  
**March 16, 2017**

Attending Council Members: Jim Huber, Senior Warden; Sarah Nowlin, Junior Warden; Greg Youtz, Treasurer; Iris Key, Clerk; Michael Arthur, Prentice Beadell, Lola Brown, Matthew Brown, Jeff Bullington, Richard Helling, Melody Herbst, Sten Johnson, Warren Maas, Dwayne Purrington, Cynthia Roach,

Attending Clergy: Bishop Brian Prior, Very Rev. Paul Lebens Englund

Attending Staff: Pat Betsinger

Council Chaplain: Mary Farrell

Guest: Brian Childs

Jim Huber called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Mary Farrell led opening prayers.

### **Minutes**

Jim Huber presented minutes from previous meeting. MOTION to accept minutes from Council meeting on February 16, 2017: M/S Matthew Brown, Emmanuel Wilson. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Jim Huber acknowledged receipt of reports collected by clerk from the chairs of committees and commissions. M/S Prentice Beadell, Melody Herbst. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Wells Board nominations**

Jim Huber announced the nomination of Bob Oganovic and Holly Woodhull to the Wells Board. M/S Sarah Nowlin, Melody. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Parochial Report**

Pat Betsinger presented the printed Parochial Report, based on 2016 financial information and membership M/S Sarah, Warren Maas. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Greg Youtz presented the written Treasurer's report for end of February. M/S Matthew, Warren. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Junior Warden's Report**

Sarah Nowlin presented the written Junior Warden's report.

### **Governance Committee Report**

Michael Arthur reported that, at the request of the Council, the Governance Committee discussed the possibility of extending the terms of Senior Wardens and Junior Wardens to 2 years, with the possibility of being reelected for another 2-year term. The committee expressed concern that this longer term would deter some candidates from running, due to the extended time commitment. The committee determined against producing an amendment to bring forward to Council.

### **Council Communications Discussion**

Matthew Brown and Prentice Beadell presented proposal for the establishment of a Working Group on Council Communications to use existing communications tools to share, with the congregation, what Council is doing, why we are doing it, and how it is progressing. Discussion of the Junior Warden monitoring and participating in the group. M/S Matthew Brown, Michael Arthur. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

### **Finance Committee resolution**

Greg Youtz presented the deliberation and resolution of the Finance Committee relating to ECMN's

letter to Senior Warden Jim Huber, and Jim Huber's response to ECMN (both previously distributed to Council via email).

Greg presented the issue from the perspective of SMEC, ending with current scenario of SMEC believing that ECMN is liable for the ongoing legal costs, with no clear path to resolution with ECMN. SMEC and ECMN share three basic objectives: prosperity for both ECMN and SMEC, and working together to achieve their shared goals.

Recommendation that SMEC and ECMN collaborate in achieving their mutual and separate goals through the following accomplishments:

- An agreed narrative
- A defined litigation budget for SMEC
- Full funding of the SMEC apportionment for ECMN
- Parking arrangement for SMEC

Greg Youtz presented a MOTION:

Whereas the Council appreciates the collaboration of ECMN in the sale of the property at 1730 Clifton Place, we were sorely disappointed that the deal we crafted jointly was not consummated. We had agreement amongst all parties to a real estate transaction and – with no prior consultation with St. Mark's – ECMN changed the conditions. As a result, the developer walked away from that agreement. We hold ECMN accountable for this outcome which causes significant ongoing financial hardship to St. Mark's. It is our view that ECMN was a significant contributor to this expense and should, therefore, willingly support St. Mark's by bearing the cost. We recognize that this is impactful to ECMN and, as we remain loyal and passionate Episcopalians committed to the nurture and growth of our diocese, we want to minimize the effect on ECMN.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of St. Mark's Episcopal will withhold \$37,500 from our contribution to ECMN for 2017.

M/S Greg Youtz, Matthew Brown.

Discussion:

- Greg Youtz clarified that the amount of \$37,500 represents one-quarter of the total amount of the loan that SMEC owes the Foundation for the payment of legal fees relating to the 1730 Clifton project.
- Brian Childs updated Council on current stage of litigation, which is nearing deposition.
- Greg Youtz stated that the motion's specification of "2017" indicates that the withholding is not intended to be ongoing; and that there is no express intention of repaying the amount in a future year. A.
- Brian Prior discussed ECMN parish contributions, which funds ECMN's ministry and mission, and summarized the standards for canonical compliance.
- Jim Huber stated that lawsuit places SMEC in unusual position among members of ECMN, and that his experience at an ECMN joint finance committee caused him to refuse to meet with them again.
- Brian Prior clarified the governance structure of ECMN; suggested that conversation with a third entity, as standard bearer, would help SMEC and ECMN achieve resolution; and said that membership in Episcopal Church may require meeting with joint finance committee.
- Prentice Beadell requested that SMEC and ECMN resolve issues in a timely manner in order to work together at their shared mission, and to serve the congregation.
- Bishop Prior's recommendation to Council was to pay the full amount, to not withhold funds, and to engage in reconciliatory conversations with trustees and other parties as soon as possible. He said that the sale of 1730 Clifton is now near to its close, and the purchaser is aware of SMEC's need for parking and appeared to be amenable to working with SMEC to provide parking.
- A friendly AMENDMENT was proposed to change the last sentence of the motion to:  
Therefore, be it resolved that the Council of St. Mark's Episcopal will withhold \$37,500 from our

contribution to ECMN for 2017 until the three prerequisites are met.

M/S Dwayne Purrington, Melody Herbst. Amendment accepted by unanimous voice vote.

- Discussion of concerns that passing the motion will not resolve the issue.

Sarah Nowlin called for a vote by secret ballot. Ballots were collected and counted by Iris Key and Mary Farrell. Jim Huber announced results: Council rejected the motion by majority ballot vote: 8 against motion, 7 in favor of motion.

Mary Farrell led closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:29pm.