

St. Mark's Council Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2018

Attending Council Members: Sarah Nowlin (Senior Warden), Paul Lakeman (Junior Warden), Greg Youtz (Treasurer), Iris Key (Clerk), Paul Anton, Richard Helling, Martha Hoover, Fred Morrison, Dwayne Purrington
 Attending Clergy: Very Rev. Paul Lebens Englund
 Attending Staff: Iweda Riddley, Mary Lusk
 Guest: Lindsey Strand

Senior Warden Sarah Nowlin called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

Opening Prayers

Dwayne Purrington led opening prayers.

Minutes

Motion to accept minutes from November 15, 2018. M/S Paul Lakeman, Martha Hoover.
 Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Reports

Motion to accept reports submitted by council members. M/S Richard Helling, Greg Youtz.
 Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Greg Youtz summarized his report, previously submitted to council members via email. Revenues exceed expenses, but this will probably not carry over into 2019. 2017 audit report was distributed to council members; the report is largely positive. Greg thanked Iweda Riddley and David Christopherson for their great work implementing processes and improving procedures. Motion to follow up on audit recommendations and review progress at the Council meeting in May 2019; M/S Fred Morrison, Richard Helling. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

Group Sharing and Learning

Mary Lusk led the group in a discussion of 2018 Council.

What went well?	
Individually in small groups i.e. committees, commissions	All together in Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly officers' meetings • Monthly committee/commission meetings • Stewardship work with development consultant • Community outreach • Gather, Transform, Send commissions • Separation of Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair • 2017 audit report and its communication to Council • Accounting manual (Finance Committee) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for deliberation: engagement, participation, open and honest dialogue • Mid-year fundraising drive planning and organizing

What could have gone better?	
Individually in small groups	All together in Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee/commission self-organization, roster, role and responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February Council meeting could introduce new members to meeting norms – clarity up front to describe how our work is organized and how we do the work. • Retreat could share the strategic vision of the Council, and of the congregation
<p>Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lines of accountability • Clear action items post-meeting • Follow-up and review of commitments • Clarity wherever new initiative • Ensure all essential fingerprints are on the work 	

Recommendations for changes	
Individually in small groups	All together in Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better communication and alliance-building between committees and commissions • Increased relationship-building as basis for good collaborative leadership 	<p><u>Communications to the congregation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic thinking of what may be shared, what must be shared, and what ought not be shared. • Goals: increase congregation's awareness, engagement, ownership <p><u>Communications within Council:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to incorporate new leadership • Question: should there be more print communication where digital communication is currently relied upon? • Question: should we get an online group work platform?

Council Reports, Actions, and Discussion
Stewardship Committee

Richard Helling reported on fundraising, including gifts from family foundations. Committee members are writing handwritten thank-you cards to all donors and making phone calls to follow up on those who pledged for 2018 but not yet for 2019.

Finance Committee

Paul Anton motioned that SMEC adopt a continuing resolution for the budget at the existing level until the January 2019 Council meeting to allow a better understanding of our 2019 pledge commitments. M/S Paul Anton, Paul Lakeman. A revised budget that includes adjustments to the non-compensation budget items will be submitted in early 2019 when more accurate pledge information is available. The budget is balanced but based on a forecast of revenues which will be revised after the conclusion of the Campaign of Generosity. It includes new compensation data as recommended by the HR Committee but leaves all other expense items at their 2018 levels.

Approved by unanimous voice vote.

425 House Update (Executive Session)

Dean Compensation Discussion (Executive Session)

Sarah Nowlin led closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52pm.