The Episcopal Church of – Church of the Holy Spirit, Plymouth

St. Mark's Church, Ashland

Vestry and Bishop's Committee Minutes

April 22, 2018

Present: Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman, Rev. Maryan Davis, Barbara Brooks, Angie Criscuolo, Katie Laucks, Katie Patten, Paula Hancock, Richard Bennett, Dick Osborne, Lew Overaker, Kathy Lennox, Joan Bowers, Bea Thibeault and Deb Holland.

Absent: Shannon Inkell, Kate Donahue and Anne Hunnewell

**Minutes:** The minutes from the March 18 meeting were tabled for this meeting. All minutes will be reviewed at a future meeting.

**Parish Management:** Heidi Schlentz is our new Parish Administrator. Heidi will work 10 hrs./week: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-12 at the Community Life Center. She is a psychology graduate student with very good people skills. We will be moving from the Flock computer program to an online Simple Church program. Our finances can be accessed only by financial team.

**Bookkeeper Update:** Mr. Wayne Twombley, a member of the Mission Resource Committee with accountant expertise has agreed to be a financial consultant for both parishes. He will assist us in moving from Quicken to Quickbooks. He will support our treasurers, connect us with resources and help us create a Financial Committee.

**Summer Worship:** Pentecost (May 20) one service at 9:30 at St. Mark's. From Memorial Day to Labor Day our Summer Worship Schedule will be: Tuesday, 11 AM Eucharist at the CLC Chapel; Wednesday, Summer Potluck Fellowship at CLC from 5:30-7:30 PM to enjoy a meal and fellowship; Thursday, 11 AM Eucharist at St. Mark's; Exploration of Spiritual Practices and Disciplines 6-8 PM Thursday at CLC; Saturday Holderness School Service 5 PM; Sunday morning Eucharist at St. Mark's Ashland at 9:30 AM. The 8 AM service at Griswold will take a “summer vacation.” The 8 AM service has not gone away.

**Deacon's Outreach:** We are assisting an Ashland family in need. Further details can be found in the newsletter and announcement page. Contact Maryan if you can assist. Our next outreach project will be supporting the Got Lunch Program in the local area. Anne Hunnewell will be our contact person. Assistance can be in the form of volunteering or bringing in food items specified in the newsletter and future announcements. Monetary contributions are always welcome.

**Wardens Report:**Joan Bowers explained about the upcoming Vestry Retreat. Vestry members need to register for the Saturday, May 12 retreat in New London. New Vestry members need to register for the Lay Leadership Workshop (all day) relative to Vestry basics of leadership. Vestry members need to register for workshops

**Celebration of New Ministry:** We will have a Celebration of New Ministry on Thursday, June 7 at 6 PM at St. Mark's. This is a formal time for the congregations and the Rector/Vicar make commitments to each other. We will organize a subcommittee for the celebration and reception details. The Bishop will be in attendance.

**Merger Discussion:** The Vestry briefly discussed when the two congregations might be able to legally merge. It was explained the Diocese is waiting to see both congregations get to know each other, work together, eating and meeting socially together. We need to overcome the image that we are still a bricks and mortar congregation. We need to impress on our communities that we engage in different forms of worship that more accurately fit the needs of both communities. A merger will be complicated. We need to convince the Diocese that merging is our eventual and attainable goal.

**Adjournment:** The next Vestry/Bishop's Committee meeting will be Sunday, June 3, 2018 at 11 AM at Griswold Hall in Plymouth. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Hancock