



SAINT MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral  
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, January 27, 2019  
Bloedel Hall -- 1:00 p.m.

**Call to Order, Prayer, Review of Agenda**

*Dean Thomason*

The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean and Rector of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish, called the 130th Annual Parish Meeting to order, following a potluck meal. Steve opened the meeting in prayer and referenced copies of the meeting agenda, and the Annual Parish Report, available on the tables.

**Introduction of Secretary and Chancellor**

*Dean Thomason*

Steve informed everyone that Jenny Donner, Vestry Clerk and Recording Secretary, was absent due to the death of her father. In her place, vestry member Michael Perera would take the minutes. John Hoerster returned as Cathedral Chancellor and Parliamentarian for the meeting.

**Minutes of 2018 Annual Parish Meeting**

*Dean Thomason*

Minutes for the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting were approved by the vestry at the March 2018 meeting, and were both sent out by email, and available at the table.

**Elections**

**Election Rules**

*John Hoerster, Cathedral Chancellor*

John read the election rules, noting that this marked the 130th year of parish elections. He read the election rules aloud as it relates to who is eligible to vote, as outlined in the *Notice of Parish Annual Meeting & Elections* document. There were eight nominees open for four open Vestry members, and a single slate for 12 Diocesan Convention delegate positions.

**Nominating & Leadership Committee Report** *John Selberg, Nominating Committee Co-Chair*

Steve introduced John Selberg, co-chair of the Nominating Committee. John introduced and gave thanks to the other people on the committee: Lynne Markova, Barbara Erickson, Gerry van Wesep, Walter Stuteville, Peter McClung, Mary Mullen, and Steve Thomason. John noted the vote counters, Liz Bartenstein for putting together the brochure, and Kevin Johnson for taking photos of all our candidates.

**Presentation of Candidates: Convention Delegates**

There was a single slate for the 12 Diocesan Convention delegate positions. John introduced and asked the candidates for Diocesan Convention to stand. They are: Russ Crosbie, Heidi Geis, Shannon Gould, Elliott Jacksch, Joe Kasper, Phillip Lienau, Susan McClung, Ruth McRee, Pam O'Sullivan, Tim O'Sullivan, Joe Roza, and Mary Segall.

**Steve asked for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the slate of nominations was closed. Steve asked the vote for the Diocesan Convention delegates be taken by acclamation in the form of applause. All approved the 12 nominees listed above.**

### **Presentation of Candidates: Vestry**

There is a double slate of candidates for the four open Vestry positions. John introduced the candidates and asked them to stand. They are Kristen Austin, Roy Hughes, Roberta Kanive, Bob Kirkman, George "G" Pro, Marjorie Ringness, Michael Seewer, and Robert Stevens.

Steve asked for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the slate of nominations was closed. Ballots for the vestry elections were distributed and collected once everyone had an opportunity to record their votes.

### **Reports**

#### **Senior Warden**

*Lynne Markova*

Lynne noted that in the past year, the vestry was focused on finance, facilities, and supporting spiritual life. Past year facility work included maintenance and various replacements across the campus. One major highlight was the labyrinth installation, "a dream 20 years in the making." She mentioned Walter Stuteville, Judy Andrews, and Doug Thorpe for their work in the labyrinth committee.

Lynne discussed the statement of action, specifically our ongoing sanctuary work: an education forum, a vigil, a protest march, and an immigration event with Attorney General Bob Ferguson. Saint Mark's also hosted a discussion climate change (Initiative 1631). Other highlights in 2018 included the installation of a peace pole, expanding our livestream channel, supporting new digital media initiatives, successful audits, book clubs, and further work with the College of Congregational Development.

There was also a wardens' forum on governance, and the community supported the appointment to the diaconate for Emily Austin (vocational) and Chris McPeak (transitional).

In preparing for the dean's sabbatical, the goal of the vestry was to continue working seamlessly. Lynne expressed gratitude to Canon Jennifer King Daugherty and Canon Nany Ross for their leadership, and the community welcomed Steve back from his sabbatical in August.

Lynne recognized John Hoerster, Re Knack, Jenny and Erik Donner, and fellow wardens Cara Peterson and Bob Chapman.

Lynne thanked Steve for all his roles at the cathedral. She highlighted his leadership model of stepping away; he trusted our ability to manage things in his absence. In four years of working together, Lynne paid tribute to Steve's ethical transparency, and his pastoral leadership.

Lynne noted that her vestry term was almost up. She will miss it very much, but she is confident about its future. She said it was an honor to have served as senior warden, and that she is proud of this community. She received a standing ovation.

#### **Stewardship Ministry**

*Robert Stevens*

Robert talked about his surprise that the Stewardship Ministry's planning meetings did not cover statistics; instead, the focus was on the spiritual and transformative nature of stewardship. The ministry never discussed an amount to raise; Robert said he found this beautiful.

The goal of the stewardship ministry originated with Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's invitation to walk in the way of love. The goal for stewardship was to reflect the diversity of Saint Mark's.

The ministry invited people to share their stories on Sunday mornings, and via Constant Contact. The results spoke of the spiritual transformation the ministry set out to achieve.

Robert recognized people who shared their stories of transformation on Sunday mornings:

- Rebekah Gilmore, Tyler Morse, and dog Hildegard
- Vinh Do
- Rachel McNary
- Neshia Alaovae
- Michael Seewer
- Greg Simon
- Cadence Cole
- Justin Mills

And the people who shared their stories via Constant Contact:

- Lynne Markova and Robert Stevens
- Doreen Tudor
- Kathy Sodergren and Vinh Do
- Steve Thomason
- Michael Perera

For 2019, Saint Mark's has received 440 commitments/pledges to date. There were 68 new commitments, and 231 increased commitments. Both exceeded similar measurements from the previous year. We did well, said Robert. It takes more than a season to do the work of stewardship; it takes a parish.

Robert thanked Lynne Markova, Vinh Do, Ralph Ermoian, The Rev. Cristi Chapman, Liz Bartenstein, and Erik Donner for their help, and he offered a special word of thanks to Greg Simon.

The parish embraced those who shared their stories. That was a key factor during this time of stewardship; responsibility, connection, and generosity. Robert concluded by saying that stewardship is a way to walk in the way of love.

### **Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia**

*Susan Knirk, Chair*

Susan quoted Ephesians 3:20. She noted that 1896 was the year that Saint Mark's Parish was founded, and that God is not finished with us. Dean Thomason's first service with us was September 2012, and what did we look like then? A community of prayer and action. What will the cathedral look like in the future? We have come a long way, said Susan; there are 813 names on the Living Stones donor wall.

The Cathedral Foundation had lots of meeting in 2018, with a focus on legacy planning. In 2017, Dean Thomason requested the formation of a planned giving committee, with a pilot program to launch in late 2018/early 2019. Susan and her team developed a plan to implement this, looking at project management, engagement, and communications.

Highlight events included a senior wardens' breakfast, a gathering of recipients of the Pro Christo et Ecclesia award, and a Cathedral Legacy Society lunch. Twelve names were selected to participate in the planned giving program. More interviews to be conducted in early 2019.

Over 2019, the planned giving committee will develop an event calendar, improve their information packet, complete their interviews, and plan for 2020.

Finance highlights: the Foundation's provisions for building and grounds included an annual allocation of \$65,000 in 2018, as well as a year-end transfer of \$12,000 for unplanned repairs. Total gift contributions to the Cathedral since 2010 was \$1,999,984. Of this, \$1.25 million was contributed to Living Stones. The October consecration ceremony of the cathedral renovations revealed a plaque that read "The East Façade and Celtic Cross are dedicated to the Glory of God by the Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia."

Other highlights: Cathedral Day (chaired by Virginia Lenker) was held in April, with over 500 attendees from 22 congregations. The Bishop blessed 84 confirmands and others received into the church. The Life Planning Ministry conducted a wills workshop, and another planned giving workshop was offered at Diocesan Convention.

Susan concluded by saying it was a very good year. She closed with a prayer of thanksgiving for a truly diocesan endeavor. She mentioned that Phil Haas, the vice president of the foundation, would be made president the following day. Also mentioned: Virginia Lenker's fourth year on the foundation, Lynne Markova's first, and Steve Thomason's leadership and guidance.

#### **Treasurer**

Phil Lloyd noted that this was his eighth year presenting the treasury report at the Annual Parish Meeting. He thanked Greg Bloch and Liz Bartenstein for their work in creating the report. The full financial audit for 2017 is on the website; the audit for 2018 will be posted in June. Phil noted the work of Junior Warden Cara Peterson, who chaired the Finance Committee for the past three years, and the work of Finance Manager Karen Komoto. Phil noted that pledges exceed the budget for 2019. He concluded by saying the cathedral is still growing and healthy.

#### **Dean's Remarks**

Steve added his gratitude to the Nominating Committee, and all who agreed to stand for election. Thanks were offered by way of applause.

Steve noted that the Annual Report booklet has a new layout: categorizing diocesan ministries in the front, parish ministries in the back. They should go hand-in-hand, but he wanted to highlight all the ways we're living as a parish and the cathedral in the Diocese of Olympia, and the Pacific Northwest.

Steve thanked us for the gift of sabbatical. He is having a blast as the dean; doing so many things, having a lot of fun doing it. He thanked us for the gift of returning.

Steve highlighted areas of coordinating our work together, as staff and ministries:

Worship: there were more than 40,000 worshippers in 2018. Many more via live stream or video podcasting, and Compline podcasting and radio broadcasting (30,000 a week). Special services: Cathedral Day, the Presiding Bishop's visit (800 people), and more than 50,000 YouTube views of the Presiding Bishop's service. There was the dedication for Living Stones in October, and the Pageant of the Nativity. Steve recognized the people who were a part of it.

The cathedral had 2,000 people in attendance at Easter, and 3,000 on Christmas. We installed a new baptismal font, took some old pews out, put some new chairs in. Steve announced a plan to allow parishioners to underwrite or purchase one or more of the new chairs, as a memorial or

in honor of someone. The eventual plan is to remove most of the pews, so we will have increased flexibility with chairs.

Formation: Steve noted all the families and children at the 9 a.m. service. The youth program (led by Seattle Service Corps intern Nicole Silvernale, and Canon Jennifer King Daugherty) is on the rebound. Steve also pointed out adult faith formation, and the Wisdom School (200 people participating). The Choir School has 50-60 children, with many of them not from Saint Mark's. He recognized Rebekah and her staff.

Education for Ministry is our richest faith formation experience. Leaders added a third group of 12 people in that ministry.

Steve remembered Bishop Rickel's 2012 charge to become a healthy parish, and then a healthy cathedral. The bishop's November visitation was an occasion for blessing our work in doing that, and living into our vocation as the cathedral for the diocese. We're caring for each other in community, listening and learning from one another. All the priests and staff do pastoral care, as does the community at large. Steve emphasized that he is utterly convinced that pastoral care is the ministry of everyone in this place.

Second community life highlight: the Communications Department, specifically the website redesign. He mentioned Liz for taking the lead.

Hospitality: sharing meals, sharing receptions. Steve thanked Virginia Lenker, for all her work. She received a standing ovation.

Prayer: the Evensong service is growing. We have a new labyrinth, which is in constant use by the community. There are more than 100 people on the prayer chain email distribution list.

Justice: the Justice Ministries have taken the charge of preaching the Gospel seriously. The Northwest Community Bail Fund, begun three years ago, last year became separately incorporated to qualify for separate grants. More than \$264,000 has been disbursed to help people post bail.

Other highlights:

Noel House: increase of women who need help

St. Brigid's Banquet and Teen Feed have been revitalized

The Threshold Fund has raised over \$50,000 for permanent/secure housing.

The Mideast Focus Ministry is launching their sixth film series this week. Steve acknowledged the zeal, passion, and commitment of the ministry's membership and leadership.

Sanctuary: nearly 100 people engaged with Steve and Canon Nancy Ross in a Border Ministry conversation.

This cathedral has leadership across the city and the region, in the ways we're being faithful to our statement of action. Steve thanked everyone for their work.

2019 is the time to conclude Living Stones. We spent \$10 million on a \$10.5 million project. Some money was borrowed, and there is \$650,000 remaining to be paid on pledges.

Steve addressed questions about paint on the north and south sides of the cathedral.

Generosity abounds everywhere here. The annual operating fund appeal raised \$1.42 million (and counting) for 2019, which is \$100,000 more than 2018.

Ministries are flourishing. Steve quoted his sermon about the spirit moving here. He is excited to see how it unfolds.

Planned giving, an intentional ministry, helps people explore how they can translate their love for the cathedral, into legacy gifts for future generations.

Great relations with diocese and rest of the community. Steve noted that Saint Mark's is being responsive as the cathedral of the diocese.

Habitat for Humanity crew from Saint Mark's: the child care space in the former choir room has been repurposed. Finished Leffler House basement. There are ongoing conversations about the Bloedel Hall stage, and a vestibule for Hoerster Annex (office entrance).

Steve recognized the staff and clergy. We sent Malcolm McLaurin to seminary, and Chris McPeak will be ordained a priest at Saint Mark's. Steve mentioned Deacon Emily Austin's field education in preparation for ordination. She will continue to serve at Saint Mark's as a vocational deacon alongside Earl Grout. There are also five parishioners in various stages of the discernment process.

Staff and clergy: Adam Conley, Craig Ackermann, The Rev. Cristi Chapman, The Rev. Earl Grout, The Rev. Emily Austin, Erik Donner, Gaye Scott, Glenn Sands, Greg Bloch, Ian Ford, Irene Beausoleil, Jason Anderson, The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty, John Stuntebeck, Karen Komoto, Kelly Moody, Liz Bartenstein, Madeleine Stevens, Canon Michael Kleinschmidt, The Rev. Canon Nancy Ross, Nicole Silvernale, and Rebekah Gilmore.

Strategic leadership reorganization. Steve noted the new roles assigned to the clergy and canons:

- Michael Kleinschmidt will be Canon for Cathedral Music
- Cristi Chapman will be Curate/Canon for Spiritual Growth and Leadership
- Jennifer King Daugherty will be Canon for Congregational Life
- Nancy Ross will be Canon for Cathedral Relations

Cathedral Support Services: they exist to support all of the ways we come together as community. Highlights: Liz Bartenstein has resigned as Communications Director, and Greg Bloch will assume the role. Cathedral Sacristan & Head Verger position: great group of applicants, and someone will be named in the next several weeks.

Steve noted the vestry's decision to close the Cathedral Shop. He recognized staff: Gaye Scott, Tessa Bowden, Kit Herrod, and Greg Bloch. There will be a celebration in March for the shop.

Steve acknowledged outgoing vestry members: Diocesan Member Greg Walrath, Vinh Do, Ralph Ermoian, Junior Warden Cara Peterson, and Senior Warden Lynne Markova. Additionally, Jenny Donner is stepping down as Clerk.

### **Vestry Election Results**

John Selberg and Lynne announced **the four nominees elected to the vestry: Kristen Austin, Marjorie Ringness, Michael Seewer, and Robert Stevens**. Steve thanked all eight candidates for standing for election.

### **Pro Christo et Ecclesia Awards**

*Dean Thomason*

The Pro Christo et Ecclesia Award is presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves in Christian to this community, and beyond. The award is intended as an acknowledgement of a servant leader's extraordinary expression of ministry for Christ and the Church.

### **Susan Knirk**

Steve noted Susan Knirk's service on the search committee for the dean, and her two-year term as president and board chair of the Cathedral Foundation. She led the foundation to re-envision its role in life planning and end-of-life ministries, and making the cornerstone gift to the Living Stones campaign. She served for years alongside her late husband, Carl. Steve thanked her for her work in Sunday services, with the dean, and in Education for Ministry.

### **Barbara Erickson**

Barbara Erickson has served Christ and this community through her work as an usher, greeter, bread baker, office volunteer, membership support, and many other programs and projects at Saint Mark's. We are deeply grateful to Barbara for her tireless work, her service to this cathedral, and her willingness to serve when called upon, to the glory of God.

### **Other Acknowledgments**

Steve said he loves this community, and he looks forward to what God has in store for us.

### **Closing Prayer and Blessing**

Steve closed the annual meeting in prayer and offered a blessing.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Perera  
Vestry Member

Erik Donner  
Executive Assistant