



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 26, 2020
Bloedel Hall

Call to Order, Prayer, Review of Agenda

Dean Thomason

The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean and Rector of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish, opened the meeting with prayer and called the 126th Annual Parish Meeting to order at 12:53pm. Steve referenced the meeting agenda and Annual Report on the tables, and thanked Communications Director Greg Bloch for providing them.

Introduction of Secretary and Chancellor

Dean Thomason

The Dean introduced Barbara Erickson, Vestry Clerk and Recording Secretary, who will take the meeting minutes. John Hoerster was appointed the Chancellor and Parliamentarian for the business meeting and Vice-Chancellor Re Knack was introduced.

Minutes of 2019 Annual Parish Meeting

Dean Thomason

The minutes from the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting were approved by the Vestry at the February 2019 vestry meeting per the bylaws and were sent out by electronic distribution. Copies were available in the Nave prior to this meeting and some copies are available at this meeting.

Elections

Election Rules

John Hoerster, Cathedral Chancellor

John read the rules for the election from the bylaws, as they relate to who is eligible to vote. There were eight vestry candidates from which four will be elected and a single slate of 12 candidates to be voted as delegates/alternates to the Diocesan Convention. There was a question asked about pledges of record, where upon the Dean responded that there is a broad definition for "member in good standing" and if you feel you meet the requirements, you are eligible to vote.

Nominating & Leadership Committee Report *Lynne Markova, Nominating Committee Chair*

Recognized the Nominating Committee members: John Selberg, Gerry van Wesep, Mary Mullen, Ralph Ermoian, Senior Warden Julia Logan, and Dean Steve Thomason, Ex Officio member. The ballot counters Kathy Sodergren, Gretchen Cook, and Mary Frederick were also thanked.

The candidates for Diocesan Convention Delegates were presented: Maria Coldwell, Mae Dirac, Grace Grant, Kate Halamay, Kevin Johnson, Vinnu Komanapalli, Michael Perera, George "G" Pro, Olivier Santos, Christine Szabadi, Doug Thorpe, and Barbara Zito.

The Dean informed all that the candidates would be alternates in 2020 and would assume the delegate role in 2021. Nominations from the floor were entertained and there were no further nominations.

A motion to close nominations for Diocesan Convention Delegates was made and approved by the parish.

A motion was made and approved by the parish to elect the 12 Diocesan Convention Delegates by acclamation: Maria Coldwell, Mae Dirac, Grace Grant, Kate Halamay, Kevin Johnson, Vinnu Komanapalli, Michael Perera, George “G” Pro, Olivier Santos, Christine Szabadi, Doug Thorpe, and Barbara Zito.

Lynne introduced the eight candidates for the Vestry: Clara Berg, Jim Buskirk, Sonjia Gavin, Scott Kovacs, Peter McClung, Jacquelyn Miller, Emily Meeks, and Walter Stuteville – four of which will be elected. The Dean entertained additional nominations from the floor, of which there were none.

A motion to close nominations for Vestry was made and approved by the parish.

The Dean provided instructions for the election of the Vestry members: a) to vote for only four members and b) any ballots with more than four names marked would be disqualified and with that the ballots were distributed. Ballots were marked, collected and then sent off to be counted by the ballot counters.

Reports

Senior Warden

Julia Logan

The Vestry’s primary responsibilities are to oversee the facilities and finances of the Cathedral and the spiritual growth of the parish.

This year, acting in accord with our Statement of Commitment and Action, specifically to welcome the stranger, the Cathedral opened our campus and our hearts, and welcomed Jaime Rubio into sanctuary on our property. This summer a new hospitality ministry, Open Front Door became active, providing welcome and information to Cathedral visitors on weekday afternoons.

A committee was formed to update the 2017-2019 Strategic Vision Plan. You will hear more about this later.

Facilities projects undertaken included repairs, updates and remodeling to Carriage House, the former Cathedral Shop space in Leffler House, the Seattle Service Corps living quarters in Leffler House, and Cathedral House Rooms 209 and 210. A new meeting space was created out of the back of the stage here in Bloedel Hall.

There is a new boiler in the St. Nicholas Building, upgrades to the sound systems in Bloedel and in the nave. We have new chairs in the nave. A new system for paid parking has been implemented.

Updates were made to the Cathedral Employee Handbook; policies for the protection of children and vulnerable adults were adopted and an Emergency and Disaster Response Manual was created. The Vestry nominated Chris McPeak for Ordination to Holy Orders, and Phillip Lienau as a Postulant for Holy Orders.

Stewardship Ministry

Robert Stevens

Robert began by sharing the Stewardship Ministry Mission Statement: “Saint Mark’s is a faith-based ministry with the core belief that God has gifted us abundantly in every aspect of life. As stewards of God’s gifts, we are all called to look inward and live prayerfully into our biblical call to give back generously from God’s abundance. Our mission as a ministry is to provide opportunities for our community to share experiences and communicate stories in ways that

invite each parishioner to cultivate a sacramental relationship between following Jesus Christ and sharing generously of their time, talent, and resources.”

Planned activities for 2020 Annual Appeal (2021 financial commitments) include:

- Every 6 to 8 Weeks we will invite someone to share during services what Saint Mark’s means to him or her.
- We will do the above periodically in a variety of other forums – podcasts, Constant Contacts, *Sundays & Beyond*, etc.
- Look for ways to Highlight Ministries throughout the Year as it relates to Stewardship – possibly use the Four-Panel Display Board
- Offer educational opportunities to broaden the understanding of Scriptural foundation of Stewardship.
- Fall Appeal– Launch it earlier and shorten to a five-week duration
- FALL BEG-A-THONS NO MORE!

Robert reported the 2019 Annual Appeal (2020 financial commitments) invited all of us to be ALL IN; open to God’s transformative power working within us in every aspect of life, both inside and outside the walls of the Cathedral.

He shared that by being on the Finance Committee he peeked at the bottom line of the 2020 Annual Draft Budget and realized that the Annual Campaign Goal was a large number and now is a time to look at statistics where we are as of last report!

- 439 commitments/pledging households
- 47 new commitments and 193 commitments increased from 2019
- We are on pace with similar measures in the prior year and people are still pledging.

Robert thanked his Co-Convener, Lynne Markova, and recognized and thanked all the members of Stewardship Ministry, the cathedral staff, and the videographers: Senior Warden Julia Logan, Greg Simon, Ralph Ermoian, Canon Cristi Chapman, Communications Director Greg Bloch, Executive Assistant Erik Donner, Dean Steve Thomason, Videographer David Wild, and Videographer Chris Brown.

Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia

Phil Haas

The Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia was incorporated in 1995. Its mission is to raise and manage endowment and capital reserve funds to preserve and enhance the buildings and grounds of Saint Mark’s Cathedral. The Foundation contributed \$1,250,000 to the Living Stones Capital Campaign for the East Façade and the Celtic Cross. In 2010-2019 the Foundation disbursed to the Cathedral additional totals of \$576,985 in annual distributions from endowments and \$172,283 in specific requests from the capital reserve fund.

The Cathedral’s campus is a treasured asset of our Cathedral parish, the Diocese of Olympia, and our community. There are seemingly infinite needs but extremely limited resources for maintaining and transforming Cathedral House, Leffler House, and the St. Nicholas Building. The funds available for this work include the Annual Campaign (which covers our annual operations and programs), future capital campaigns (you can expect them every ten years), and the Foundation’s assets which include as of December 31, 2019:

- Permanently restricted endowments totaling \$1,472,888 in the Diocesan Investment Fund (DIF). The Foundation disburses approximately 4% of the endowment fund annually to the Cathedral but this amount is insufficient to meet the Cathedral’s many immediate and long-term facility needs.

- The capital reserve fund totaling \$115,093. The Foundation makes annual disbursements from this fund to cover some of the Cathedral's unbudgeted building and grounds expenses when requested by the Dean, but we maintain a minimum balance of \$100,000 for emergencies and disasters.

As you consider your many options for charitable contributions and planned giving within your church and community, we hope that you will consider both the Cathedral and the Foundation as resources to help you make a meaningful impact on our Cathedral community and its buildings and grounds.

During 2019, the Foundation's Planned Giving Committee members interviewed over 30 parishioner households to test protocols, materials, and documentation methods that we hope to use to promote planned giving on a broader scale to assure the long-term future of the Cathedral. You will hear much more about planned giving in 2020.

We also encourage you to participate in upcoming events such as Cathedral Day on May 9, and our Life Planning Workshop on Celebrating Life in the Resurrection which will be held at St. Thomas, Medina on March 14.

Treasurer

Phil Lloyd

Our operating fund income topped \$2 million in 2019 and we achieved a modest surplus from our core operations. Acknowledged the Finance Committee, former bookkeeper Karen Komoto, current bookkeeper Stephen Eddy, Steve Thomason, and Greg Bloch.

Strategic Plan

Lynne Markova

In addition to my work with the Nominating Committee, I also chaired the Strategic Planning Committee. Our work, as identified by the Vestry, was to develop an updated Strategic Plan, including looking at the Mission, Vision, Values, and Strategic Goals

Our committee convened this last April. Its members consisted of the Dean, Senior Warden Julia Logan, Linda Chia, Rachel McNary Crosbie, Kari Nasby, David Thompson, Communications Director Greg Bloch, Cathedral Sacristan & Head Verger Michael Seewer, Vestry Member Roberta Kanive, and Vestry Member Marjorie Ringness.

After some discussion, the committee agreed to follow a similar approach to the last two Strategic Planning processes. We used a four-question framework to gather input from the congregation, through attending ministry and group meetings, sending out an online survey, and conducting two parish forums. The four questions we used focused on what was going well at Saint Mark's; what was going less well; where we should focus our energy, and what we needed to do to get there.

During this Strategic Planning cycle, the committee felt that we could do more with the survey than we had previously, and a separate subcommittee met to create a more comprehensive version. Their faith was well-placed – we received over 80 responses, which was a much higher return rate than in previous years.

Without digressing too much, the purpose of this approach is to make sure that our Strategic Plan is truly the Strategic Plan of the entire community – that any and all of you who wanted to participate had the opportunity to do so. You may also recognize some of your own comments, as we tried to preserve the original wording as often as possible.

Once we had collected all of the data, I compiled it, placed it into a massive Excel spreadsheet, and drafted an initial plan. An editing task force met to review the plan, which was then subjected to a thorough editorial proofreading. The Strategic Planning Committee and Vestry all

reviewed the plan and made suggestions for changes. The final version was approved at the January 2020 Vestry meeting and will be available shortly for your viewing pleasure.

One interesting fact from this iteration is that, throughout the plan, the theme of connecting and sharing in small groups reoccurred frequently. I was quite surprised and impressed when I heard that the new Radix small groups were starting, just while I was working on the final draft of the plan. It's very rare that a concern that surfaces in the strategic plan is addressed before the plan is even finalized and is the sign of a community that is very in tune with each other.

I would like to thank the committee members for their hard work. Our hope is that the Saint Mark's ministries and groups will find the plan helpful in your planning and work during the weeks and months ahead. Thank you.

Dean's Remarks

The Dean thanked the Nominating Committee members for providing a great slate of candidates: Lynne Markova, John Selberg, Gerry van Wesep, Mary Mullen, Ralph Ermoian, and Julia Logan; thanked all who stood for election, and reminded that as this is a double slate process, four will be called to this ministry and four will not be called, but as all have good ministries which will be claimed whether elected or not.

In August 2019 Steve completed his seventh year as Dean and Rector, and in this eighth year, we are turning into a new era as a community, as a cathedral for the diocese and as a cathedral resource for the broader Pacific Northwest. Sense of taking a longer view in our mission and ministry and in the care of our buildings, and with our Strategic Plan. Sense in the long view that we have put out fires such as a leaky building which was never properly sealed that is coming into place, and a wonderful staff has come onboard! Ministries and good spirit that abounds in this place means we are living into what God is calling us to be in exciting ways. Deep sense that the spirit is moving among us and it is our work to stop and listen to that spirit and where the spirit is calling us and by doing that we faithfully will go into the future as who God is calling us to be.

Reflect on numbers to celebrate the energy that abounds here: 50,000 have worshiped with us; tens of thousands more have watched the service via the livestream, uploaded videos with nearly four thousand on Easter alone; 10,000 plus attend Compline, with half a million more who listened or downloaded podcasts of our Compline services; 200,000 views on the Saint Mark's YouTube channel; cathedral has been filled at Cathedral Day, Christmas, Easter, Christmas Pageant, O Antiphons, 150 children and adults leading us in worship in seven different choirs; in August, 80 people gathered for an intergenerational gathering called EAT PLAY LOVE; more than 30 are supporting our Sanctuary Ministry in quiet but deliberate ways; 20 active in revitalized Creation Care Ministry and they will be asking us engage in the important work of caring for our creation and addressing the crisis of climate change – if you are interested in this ministry, please contact Marjorie Ringness. There were 29 baptisms, 24 people were buried, but this is not about the numbers, numbers are like shadows on the wall with the philosophical experiment, shadows reflect an image that is real, but they tell a story, but not the full story - the essence of the community that gathers here - that is what it is about, not the numbers but the incarnational reality of people coming together; coming together as we did in March to welcome Jaime Rubio into sanctuary on this campus as this church community said it is an important way for us to be a church in the world. Jaime, we are glad you and your family are here.

Coming together in May with several hundred others coming from across the diocese for Cathedral Day where bearing witness and supporting over 100 who made their adult affirmation of faith on that day, that's the body of Christ gathered in this cathedral to celebrate our common life, or gathered here on Heritage Sunday giving thanks to the legacy to those who have gone before, while we stand on their shoulders as we lean into and listen to God's call to us in this particular place and time. Coming together for the Radix Project, a new small group that has shaped in recent weeks where 18 groups of children and youth and adults, more than 150 people, sharing our stories, reflecting on scripture, praying for one another, that's the transformative gift of presence we have to offer one another. And gathering in worship, coming together in worship trusting we are richer for the experience whether in a packed cathedral or when two or three gather in the chapel for evening prayer, worship is the means by which we live our story, we learn our story, and we weave it into God's story. We have a great story to tell here and you are all part of it, and you are all charged with telling that story to one another and out there as well. Generosity of spirit abounds here – and that's the undergirding reality of this great energy.

Generosity of sharing one's blessings and support of the missions and ministries here. As Robert said, we have exceeded \$1.5 million in pledges for 2020 and we know there are several who will pledge. Since the last seven years, our pledge base has increased over 50%. In 2019 we had over 1,000 donors of record, people who have pledged or given gifts in the plate or donated online – saying this cathedral means something to me. The Cathedral Legacy Society which honors those who have kept the Cathedral or Cathedral Foundation in their will or estate planning. 250 households are in the Cathedral Legacy Society. Challenge offered for 2020 to make it known who you are and what this place means to you.

Ministries that flourish in so many ways here because you are taking your time to engage. You are sharing your gifts; care is of this community. Take the Annual Report home and read and celebrate how this place comes together. Recognition given to Greg Bloch for his work on the Annual Report.

Recognition given to the Habit for Humanity crew – Jacquelyn and Gordon Miller, John Selberg, and all the members who have done projects here including closing in the stage space to improve the acoustics and provide another meeting space, updating Cathedral House Room 210, the Leffler House remodels, and the safety rail along the ramp in the nave. Jaime has become an integral part of that group as well.

Recognize David Wild, a professional videographer who came to Steve with a dream about doing videos, who has produced 14 remarkable award-winning quality videos for Saint Mark's including a fascinating one called "On the Mighty Flentrop" which has gone viral with over 150,000 hits on YouTube.

Recognize Marc Aubertin who leads our Cathedral Commons dinners on Wednesday nights, along with wonderful team – Nancy George, Lynn Offutt, and Jim Green.

Engaged in the strategic reorganization of the staff and leadership took place this past year. Reorganized the canons for the cathedral and their executive leadership; brought on Jim Pannell as Director of Operations; hired new staff in a variety of roles. I have heard from many how much you appreciate the service orientation, the hospitality, desire for this group to do right by you in this community. Introduction of staff: The Rev. Canon Cristi Chapman, Canon for Spiritual Growth and Stewardship; The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty, Canon for

Congregational Life; The Rev. Canon Nancy Ross, Canon for Cathedral Relations; Michael Kleinschmidt, Canon for Cathedral Music; The Rev. Earl Grout, Deacon; The Rev. Emily Austin, Deacon; Adam Conley, Seattle Service Corps Director; Christopher Brown, Event Support & Facilities Associate; David Wagner, Facilities Manager; Erik Donner, Executive Assistant to the Dean/Membership Support; Gregory Bloch, Director of Communications; James Pannell, Director of Operations; Jason Anderson, Compline Choir Director; John Stuntebeck, Associate Organist; Kelly Moody, Associate for Spiritual Formation; Madeleine Stephens, Music Administrator; Michael Seewer, Cathedral Sacristan & Head Verger; Nicole Silvernale, Director of Youth Ministry; Rebekah Gilmore, Associate Musician & Choir School Director; Stephen Eddy, Bookkeeper & Scheduler.

Acknowledged the hiccups, growing pains and redirection in 2019 – celebrated the Cathedral Shop closure in March, and its 30 years existence, with a large reception; have repurposed that space in Leffler House with donated furniture with the help of Kathy Thompson and the help of the Habitat crew; and instituted parking management with 100% of the fees paid going toward the maintenance of the parking lot.

Vestry Election Results

The results of the election were certified by the Dean and the Senior Warden. Lynne Markova introduced the new vestry members: Clara Berg, Peter McClung, Emily Meeks, and Walter Stuteville. Steve thanked all eight candidates and then recognized all vestry members for the past year.

The outgoing members, Rosemarie LeMoine, Amanda Davis, and Jim Buskirk were recognized and received gifts from the Dean. Those not present, Andrew Himes and Mary Maxon (Diocesan Member from St. Luke's, Vancouver), will receive gifts. Marda Steedman Sanborn, Canon to the Ordinary, who serves as the Bishop's Representative to the Vestry, will be leaving this position at the end February and will receive a gift.

Pro Christo et Ecclesia Awards

Dean Thomason

Whereas Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish has a long-standing tradition of bestowing the Pro Christo et Ecclesia Awards to:

1. Julia Logan receives the award for "... being a faithful member of this cathedral community exercising ministry with generous affection, goodwill, and much grace in a variety of roles including lector, greeter, Noel House volunteer", "... and two years ago was elected to serve on Vestry providing her the opportunity to exhibit her gifts in parish leadership demonstrating an earnest commitment in working for the well-being of this community..."... and raised up by her Vestry peers for Senior Warden..." Henley also receives a gift of dog treats for his good service.
2. The Rev. Earl Grout receives the award for "his congeniality ...", "... seemingly never met a stranger; only friends and companions along the way" and he has "a heart of diaconal mettle seasoned with lighthearted playfulness which is to say he sees the world through a lens of compassion, comforting the afflicted while holding space for levity and laughter – a healing balm offered freely to all..." Bishop Rickel added from the Holy Land "Couldn't happen to a better guy either."
3. Amelia Canaday receives the award for "... long ago embracing in her heart the Christian compassion born in the conviction that all people should be afforded dignity and respect..." and "... a founding member of Saint Mark's Human Sexuality Committee in the 1980s courageously bringing the conversation on inclusion into the living rooms and the

Cathedral's worship spaces with a fervent commitment to claim all people as God's beloved ones..." "... dedicated herself to relieving the suffering of those experiencing homelessness working well into her nineties serving Christ by serving those in tents or transitional housing or emergency shelters including Noel House ...

Resolved, that the Seventh Dean of Saint Mark's Cathedral, serving as Rector of the Parish, does hereby bestow... the Pro Christo et Ecclesia Award... Presented at the Annual Meeting of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish on this 26th Day of January in the year 2020.

Other Acknowledgments

The Dean then acknowledged:

- John Hoerster has served the last 20 years as Chancellor for Saint Mark's and five more years on the Vestry in the 1990s. He has spent 25 of the last 30 years attending Vestry meetings and he deserves an opportunity to step away from Vestry. John is a man of generous heart extending back to his young lawyer days...and a generous steward of his resources, a cathedral leader extraordinaire serving as Vestry member, chancellor, campaign leader, justice leader, Radix co-facilitator, counselor and friend to three deans and a grandfather. Thank you to John's wife Carol for sharing him. The Dean appointed John as Chancellor Emeritus and presented him with a gift. Re Knack has served as Vice-Chancellor and now steps in as Chancellor.
- Mideast Focus Ministry has a new brochure for their 2020 Film Series which will begin in February. Brochures available on the tables and in the racks.
- Creation Care is alive and active and please see Marjorie Ringness if you are interested in participating.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Steve invited everyone to stand and gave the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 2:19pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson
Vestry Clerk

Erik Donner
Executive Assistant