



**Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral  
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes  
Sunday, February 6, 2022  
Bloedel Hall and Zoom Video Conference**

*Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of the Duwamish Tribe.*

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

*Dean Steve Thomason*

The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason, Dean and Rector of St. Mark's Cathedral Parish, opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgment followed by a prayer at 12:20PM.

**Introduction of Secretary**

*Dean Steve Thomason*

The Dean introduced Barbara Erickson, Vestry Clerk and Recording Secretary, who will take the meeting minutes.

**Appointment of Chancellor**

*Dean Steve Thomason*

Re Knack was reappointed as chancellor and will be the parliamentarian for the meeting.

**Minutes of 2021 Annual Parish Meeting**

*Dean Steve Thomason*

The minutes from the two-part January 24 and 31, 2021 Annual Parish Meeting were reviewed and approved at the March 2021 Vestry meeting and have been available on the Saint Mark's website.

**Election**

**Nominating & Leadership Committee Report**

*Julia Logan, Nominating Committee Chair*

Julia recognized the Nominating Committee members: Jim Buskirk, Carrie Davis, Peter McClung, Michael Perera, John Selberg, and Dean Steve Thomason, ex officio. Erik Donner and Greg Bloch were thanked and acknowledged for the staff support they provided. The tellers, who count the votes for today's election, were acknowledged and thanked – Gretchen Cook, Norva Osborn, and Kathy Sodergren.

**Convention Delegates**

Julia introduced the nominees for the 12 Diocesan Convention delegates: Hisako Beasley, Cherie Bradshaw, Mae Dirac, Barbara Erickson, Kate Halamay, Susan Knirk, Kathy Minsch, Michael Murphree, Maris Olsen, Deborah Person, George Pro, and Peter Snyder.

***The Nominating Committee Report was paused at this point to allow Chancellor Re Knack to provide the rules for the election.***

**Election Rules**

*Re Knack, Chancellor*

1. "Parish Communicants in good standing" are eligible to vote. These are baptized persons who are faithful in corporate worship, have received the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Saint Mark's at least three times during the previous year, unless good cause prevented, are 16 years or older, and are recorded contributors to the support of Saint Mark's with money or personal service. The pandemic is sufficient good cause to have prevented a Parish Communicant from receiving Holy Communion at Saint Mark's at least three times this last year.

2. Voting by Parish Communicants in Good Standing will occur by paper ballot for those attending in person and by electronic link in the Zoom chat for those attending virtually.  
Immediately prior to the vote, each eligible voter attending in person will be given one paper ballot, on which are listed the candidates for Convention Delegates/Alternate and for Vestry. There is a slate of 12 Convention Delegates/Alternates for 12 openings. There are eight candidates for the Vestry, from which voters should choose four. A ballot with votes for more than four Vestry candidates will not be counted. After voting the ballot should be folded and given to an usher.  
For those attending virtually, they are to vote using the electronic link included in the Zoom chat this morning. Parish Communicants in Good Standing who have limited internet or computer access or knowledge, who are joining the meeting by phone, or who have any other concerns, can vote by calling Erik Donner at 206-323-0300 ext. 217.
3. The ballots will be counted by persons selected by the Chair of the Nominating Committee (and the results reported the Dean and Senior Warden prior to announcement).
4. The Chair of the Nominating Committee will announce the results of the election.
5. The names, but not the votes, of the four candidates elected to the Vestry will be announced.

#### ***Nominating Committee Report: Convention Delegates, resumes***

Julia re-announced the names of the 12 candidates for diocesan Convention Delegates. The Dean then opened the floor for any additional nominations for delegates to the Diocesan Convention. No other nominations were made.

**Motion was made and seconded to close nominations from the floor for additional candidates to the Diocesan Convention and the vote to close the nominations and elect the 12 Diocesan Convention Delegates by acclamation was approved by the parish.**

#### **Vestry**

The Dean announced that there were eight nominees to the vestry with only four being elected. Julia then introduced the candidates: **Wayne Duncan, Sharon Ferguson, Nancy George, Scott Hulet, Kristen Kelly, Justin Mills, Olivier Santos, and Doug Thorpe**. Additional nominations from the floor were entertained, and as none were made, ***a motion was made, seconded, and approved by the parish to close floor nominations for the Vestry positions.*** The ballots were then distributed by the ushers.

#### **Reports**

##### **Share Pre-recorded Reports**

The Stewardship and Foundation reports were pre-recorded and can be found on the website at [Annual Parish Meeting, 2022 • Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral \(saintmarks.org\)](#).

##### **Treasurer**

*Phil Lloyd, Treasurer*

This was Phil Lloyd's 11<sup>th</sup> and final treasurer report as he leaves the office. Phil referenced the Annual Report stating it has been a good year, and the finances look good with the bottom-line being we have a \$130,000 surplus. Phil thanked Bookkeeper Stephen Eddy, Finance Committee Chair Clara Berg and the committee members, and Communications Director Greg Bloch for their assistance. The Dean gave thanks for Phil's service and presented him with two gifts. The Dean then announced that Lynne Cobb will be the new treasurer.

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

The Dean acknowledged the Nominating Committee for their great work this year; thanked all who stood for election and reminded all that not everyone will be elected to the vestry, when we have a double slate, but everyone is called to ministry in this place, and all are leaders in this community.

The Dean listed his adjectives that described this past year: adaptable, nimble, challenging, uncertain, hybrid, wearing, exhausting, exciting, opportune, grounding... Church exists for times such as this. All people need: a safe haven and the church provides; reassuring word of hope and the church exists for that; place of meeting, that's who we are and what we do; we need a gathering place and a connection to God, and the church provides that. Saint Mark's has grown during the pandemic. Growth going forward will be defined differently – not the benchmark of the number of people in the pews but the “touches.” Bishop Chilton Knudsen, a friend and assisting bishop of the Diocese of Chicago, suggests a better way to measure a church's vitality is by “touches per week.” Worship being the central way we are together, one should include the forums, small groups, justice work, choir rehearsals, the livestreams, Zoom sessions, pastoral visits, ministry groups, written notes and phone calls. All are a web of connections and touchstones for this community. The hybrid technology affords a different way of being together. Our new equipment was given in memory of Eileen Van Doren by her family and friends to continue to keep the community connected.

The Spirit is moving here. The reaching out from this community is changing the way we have our being. The generosity of financial support, up 10%, helps us keep pace with rising costs and enable salary adjustments for staff even with rental and plate income not returning to pre-pandemic levels yet. 50 new pledging households this year. Special gifts have been made to establish a Festival Music Fund, fixing the Thomsen Chapel boiler, and memorial gifts provide lasting gifts that benefit all.

### **Certification of Results by the Junior Wardens and Dean**

**The election results were certified by the Dean and the Junior Wardens.**

**Julia Logan announced the four elected to the Vestry: Wayne Duncan, Scott Hulet, Kristen Kelly, and Justin Mills.** The Dean announced that the Vestry is appointing **Doug Thorpe**, the fifth highest vote count, to fill the one-year unexpired term on the Vestry. Thank you expressed to the other candidates for the vestry who were not called at this time.

### **Dean Thomason's Remarks, *resumes***

The pandemic required us to adaptive, not acquiesce into institutional inertia; we pressed and are pressing forward.

The Mutual Ministry Goals developed a year ago are guiding how we are together

1. Creation Care and Carbon Reduction: several projects on campus to reduce our carbon footprint; encouraging households to participate.
2. Restorative Justice and Systemic Change: living in a time of reckoning, church has something to say, but our spiritual work first before we can say anything outwardly. The Statement of Lament and Commitment to Action is guiding us, brought The Rev. Eliacín Rosario-Cruz to help guide us, every one of us has this work to do. Acknowledgment for Jaime Rubio, who has been in sanctuary with us for three years and with the breakthrough in his case, he is now able to leave campus safely and looks forward to moving off campus in the April timeframe.
3. Intergenerational Ministries. Church built for this – provide place where engagement across generations exist; committed resources to bring innovative approaches to build spiritual wisdom from youth to sage elders. Canon Wendy Claire Barrie will help guide us.

### **Staff Video and Acknowledgments**

*Dean Steve Thomason*

Short video clips from the staff and clergy were viewed and are available on the Cathedral website [Annual Parish Meeting, 2022 • Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral \(saintmarks.org\)](https://www.saintmarks.org). The Dean recognized the Staff present; Deacons – The Rev. Earl Grout and The Rev. Emily Austin; first annual meeting for new staff Canon Wendy Claire Barrie, The Rev. Canon Eliacín Rosario-Cruz, The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker,

Director of Operations Kathy Wickward, and Event Support & Facilities Associate Mainza Tonga. Priest Associates: The Rev. Edie Weller, The Rev. Mark Miller, The Rev. Dr. Dennis Tierney, and The Rev. Canon Dr. Marda Steedman Sanborn.

A sign of a healthy church is that we raise up people in all different ways. One of those ways is raising up new leaders for the broader Church. Malcolm McLaurin was on staff here, ordained a priest in June for the broader Church. Linzi Stahlecker was raised up in another congregation but comes to us as a curate. Our seminarians, Phillip Lienau and Robert Stevens, are beginning their formation at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, Lisa Graumlich is becoming a deacon in the Diocese of Olympia, and Lynne Markova and Kelly Moody are postulants and will soon be heading to seminary. God will tell us how additional people will be serving as well.

The Dean thanked the Vestry for their resolute leadership and for resisting impulse to work from scarcity and live into this with full faithfulness. Thank the wardens – Clara Berg, Junior Warden for Finance and Walter Stuteville, Junior Warden for Facilities, and Peter McClung, Senior Warden who had to resign for personal reasons.

### **Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members**

*Dean Steve Thomason*

The retiring Vestry members, Jim Buskirk, Marjorie Ringness, Kristen Austin, and Micah Kurtz – Diocesan Member from St. Columba, Kent, were thanked. Tina Blondino, St. Michael & All Angels, Issaquah, will begin her three-year term on the Vestry as a Diocesan Member. The Dean also recognized and thanked Barbara Erickson, Clerk of the Vestry, Re Knack, Chancellor, and Phil Lloyd as Treasurer with Lynne Cobb being the newly elected Treasurer.

### **Appointment of Senior Warden**

*Dean Steve Thomason*

The canons of the Episcopal Church provide that the Rector appoints the senior warden and the Vestry appoints/elects the junior wardens. The Dean today named Emily Meeks as our new Senior Warden. The Vestry will elect junior wardens at its organizing retreat next week.

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

Dean Steve Thomason presented two awards this year—to Virginia Lenker and Molly Henderson.

*Whereas, Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish has a longstanding tradition of bestowing the Pro Christo et Ecclesia Award to individuals who have distinguished themselves in Christian service to the community and beyond; and*

*Whereas, the award is intended as an acknowledgement of a servant leader's extraordinary expression of ministry for Christ and the Church; and*

*Whereas, Virginia Lenker arrived on the scene of Saint Mark's forty years ago, fresh out of Smith College, and was told by a friend to visit this cathedral and sing in the choir, which she did for several years, with grace and good humor; and*

*Whereas, Virginia has taken full advantage of the sacramental rites of the church in this place, including the Rite of Holy Matrimony with her beloved Brian, and dipping her children in the waters of baptism, while also partaking in countless Eucharists around a table in which we trust God is our host; and*

*Whereas, Virginia has served capably on Vestry, as Vestry Secretary, and on the Board of the Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia which prompted her to step forward and serve as Cathedral Day master planner and coordinator for the past several years, securing everything from face paint to food trucks to cookies, lots and lots of cookies; and*

*Whereas, Virginia has a delightful ministry of hospitality which has imbued the receptions following funerals in recent years with a generous grace that serves as balm for the family and occasion for the parish to honor the one we love but see no longer; therefore, Be It*

*Resolved, that the Seventh Dean of Saint Mark's Cathedral, serving as Rector of the Parish, does hereby bestow upon Virginia Lenker the Pro Christo Et Ecclesia Award, with grateful acknowledgement of her servant's heart, her passionate commitment to this congregation, her will to serve when called upon, always to God's glory and for the benefit of God's people.*

*Presented at the Annual Meeting of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.*

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*Whereas, Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish has a longstanding tradition of bestowing the Pro Christo et Ecclesia Award to individuals who have distinguished themselves in Christian service to the community and beyond; and*

*Whereas, the award is intended as an acknowledgement of a servant leader's extraordinary expression of ministry for Christ and the Church; and*

*Whereas, Molly Henderson brought her Southern drawl to Seattle in the late 1980s, but anyone who chats even briefly with her today knows the saying is true: you can take the girl out of South Carolina, but you cannot take South Carolina out of the girl; and*

*Whereas, in the fullness of time, Molly found her way into Saint Mark's Cathedral through Leffler House and the Center for Spiritual Development that met there and nurtured Molly's innately beautiful contemplative spirit with which she has quietly and faithfully exercised her role as a minister of Christ in this community through the years with generous grace; and*

*Whereas, she has for many years sung her praises to God as part of the Saint Mark's Singers, leading the Parish Eucharist at nine o'clock Sunday mornings, singing countless anthems and hymns and carols and psalm chants with faithful dedication and that delicious southern lilt, inspiring the gathered community into its work of worship; and*

*Whereas, Molly has participated in and guided the Flower Ministry in this Cathedral's worship spaces for more than two decades, bringing a creative and innovative vision to the effort that strikes a beautiful balance between local and exotic, colorful and understated, cost-conscious and sized for the space, always mindful of seasonal, sustainable, and sublime ways for the arrangements to invite us into the work at hand, which is to worship in the beauty of holiness and be sent into the world buoyed by the experience; therefore, Be It*

*Resolved, that the Seventh Dean of Saint Mark's Cathedral, serving as Rector of the Parish, does hereby bestow upon Molly Henderson the Pro Christo Et Ecclesia Award, with grateful acknowledgement of her*

*servant's heart, her generosity of spirit, her graceful presence in our midst, and her good work of service for Christ and the Church.*

*Presented at the Annual Meeting of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022.*

**Closing Prayer and Blessing**

The Dean led the closing prayer and gave the blessing. The meeting was adjourned at 1:34PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson  
Clerk

Erik Donner  
Executive Assistant