



**Annual Parish Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Sunday, February 5, 2023**  
**Bloedel Hall and Zoom**

*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 all the Coast Salish tribes.*

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

.....*Dean Steven Thomason*

The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean and Rector of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish, opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgment followed by a prayer at 12:30PM. Housekeeping information was provided and thank you to Emily Meeks and Marc Aubertin and Vestry members responsible for the snacks.

**Introduction of Secretary**

.....*Dean Steven Thomason*

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

**Appointment of Chancellor**

*Dean Steven Thomason*

Dean Thomason reappointed Re Knack as chancellor, and she will be the parliamentarian for the meeting.

**Minutes of 2012 Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes from the February 6, 2022 Annual Parish Meeting were reviewed and approved at the February 2023 Vestry meeting and have been available on the Saint Mark's website.

**Nominations for Elected Positions**

**Election Rules**

Chancellor Knack

Summation of the rules: Parish Communicants in good standing" are eligible to vote. 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. 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). The Chair of the Nominating Committee will announce the results of the election. The names, but not the votes, of the four candidates elected to the Vestry will be announced.

**Nominating & Leadership Committee Report**

Julia Logan

**Presentation of Candidates**

**Convention Delegates**

Julia Logan thanked the members of the 2022 Nominating Committee – Jim Buskirk, Maria Caldwell, Carrie Davis, Emily Meeks, Michael Perera, John Selberg, and Dean Steve Thomason, ex officio. Erik Donner and Greg Bloch were acknowledged for their staff support as were the tellers, Gretchen Cook, Steve Moen, and Kathy Sodergren.

The names of the Diocesan Convention Delegates were then read.

Seyi Akanni	Olivier Santos
Amanda Davis	Victoria Szydowski
Lucy Gubbins	Susan Tierney
Rose Hazard	Mark Uyeda
Kevin Johnson	Andy Valaas
Carleton MacDonald	Nancy Valaas

Dean Thomason opened the floor for additional nominations, and no other nominations were made.

**A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations from the floor and a vote to close the nominations from the floor was approved.**

**Motion was made and seconded to elect the 12 persons to serve as the delegation to the Diocesan Convention by acclamation.**

### **Vestry**

Julia Logan introduced the candidates for the Vestry:

Bob Carter	Kelsey Herschberger
Sallie Crotty	Peter Snyder
Nancy George	Alexandra Thompson
Greg Hamm	Doug Thorpe

Dean Thomason then opened the floor for nominations. No nominations were put forward.

**A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations and a vote was taken, passed and nominations were closed.** The ballots were then distributed by the ushers.

### **Presentation of Proposed Revision to By-laws**

Chancellor Knack

Chancellor Re Knack summarized the revisions to the Saint Mark's Bylaws to comply with the revised Non-profit Corporations Act. The most significant revisions relate to the rights of transparency and participation by members of a non-profit. The vestry recommends the approval of the bylaws.

**Motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the amended Bylaws as presented.**

A second vote was taken to approve the resolution to approve the amended bylaws.

Be it resolved that Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish effective as of February 5, 2023, the date of the 2023 Annual Meeting and continuing unless or until changed by subsequent Resolutions the Second Restated Bylaws of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish are in effect.

**A vote was taken, and the resolution passed.**

### **Reports**

#### **Annual Report Booklet**

Thank you to Greg Bloch, Director of Communications, and Krista Osborne, Seattle Service Corps member, assisting Greg and to everyone who contributed to the booklet. It is available on the Saint Mark's website: [2022 Annual Report • Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral \(saintmarks.org\)](https://www.saintmarks.org/2022-Annual-Report).

#### **Treasurer**

Lynne Cobb

A review of the Cathedral's Operating Budget shows the revenue and plate offerings are up and expected to continue upward in 2023. Looking at Expenses, personal costs are up – includes the 10% COLA increase for all staff – but remains under budget due to staffing changes. Although a negative \$33,000 is reflected in the budget, anticipated that this will be adjusted. We continue to draw 4% from

our endowments for operations per our policy. An Investment Subcommittee has been formed to monitor our investments. An ad hoc committee has been formed to assist with the annual audit. Excited to work with the new Junior Warden for the Finance Committee as Clara Berg will be leaving the Vestry.

### **Senior Warden**

Emily Meeks

Emily shared her feelings about serving on the vestry... and serving as Senior Warden the awareness of “pockets of ministries that are connected by love of Christ and one another.” Acknowledged the many milestones are connected to the Dean, the Junior Wardens, and the Vestry members, the clergy and staff. Learned that despite challenges, difference of opinions, life experiences... we engage together, do good work in current setting, and that one literally cannot be at every meeting, answer every challenge, but that prayer connects. Ended with the poem, “The Way It Is” by William Stafford.

### **Dean Thomason’s Remarks**

Acknowledged the members of the Nominating Committee, the election tellers, as well as Erik Donner, Greg Bloch, and Jennifer King Dougherty who were assisting on the electronic side of voting. Thank you to all who stood for election, there are no winners or losers, only some are called to the Vestry at this time while others are called to other ministries; all are leaders in this community.

Acknowledge and celebrate the generous spirit in our midst – 1) honor our past, we are people of memory; 2) we live in the present, showing up, incarnational; 3) be adaptive – we are nimble; 4) Strive to be faithful to our mission – for example, we studied market rate housing on Saint Mark’s campus and found it to be not consistent with our missional identity.

Finding a way into the cathedral to frame questions, provide solace, strength and holding space to do that questioning where a safe haven is needed. Tracing our average attendance but also how are we touching those who worship with us through Zoom, live stream, hybrid, and the Radix group.

1. Facilities. Campus assets touch 10’s of thousands of lives every year. Opportunities to reduce our carbon emissions, as enter next phase, will require capital expenditures. Acknowledged our new property manager, Chase Silver – Windermere Property Management Group; Cathedral Foundation for faithful support of facilities and grounds; Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator and Chris Brown, Buildings and Grounds Coordinator; Walter Stuteville, Junior Warden for Facilities guidance and leadership.
2. Finance and Stewardship. Many churches are experiencing significant downturns in giving coming out of the pandemic, Saint Mark’s is grateful for a smaller net positive increase in pledges due to growth from new members. Many households kept their pledges flat, but we are living within our means. Pause taken for election results.

### **Announcement of Election Results**

Julia Logan

At 1:24PM, the election was certified, and the new 2023 Vestry members announced: Peter Snyder, Alexandra Thompson, Doug Thorpe, and Greg Hamm.

### **Dean Thomason’s Remarks, continued**

Dean Thomason resumes with two strategic initiatives:

1. Exploration of affordable housing on our campus. Vestry charged a committee specifically with exploring affordable housing. John Hoerster is the committee chair.
2. Strategic initiatives of planned giving efforts. More than 250 households have included Saint Mark’s Cathedral or the Cathedral Foundation in their estate planning. This past year, for example, the estates of Marge Anderson, Billie Manning, Mary Baldwin Kennedy, and Pete Strimer have blessed Saint Mark’s with gifts. Josh Hosler, Penny and Rob Reid, and Re Knack shared their

stories in a video filmed by David Wild, who was acknowledged and thanked for his uncanny gift of capturing the stories of Saint Mark's.

### **Acknowledgments**

**Cathedral Foundation**, Phil Haas, Julia Logan, Deborah Person, and others who serve on the Board.

**Worship Adaptions and Changes** to help adjust to virtual worship; the Taizé ministry – Michael Seewer, and to the liturgical ministers.

**Staff introduced:** Luke Abdow, Jason Anderson, Wendy Claire Barrie, Erik Bauer, Greg Bloch, Chris Brown, Erik Donner, Stephen Eddy, Rebekah Gilmore, Michael Kleinschmidt, Laura Loge, John Stuntebeck, Michael Seewer, and Jim Van Horn.

**Clergy introduced:** The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty, The Rev. Canon Eliacin Rosario-Cruz, and The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker.

**Deacons introduced:** The Rev. Earl Grout and The Rev. Emily Austin.

**Priest Associates** were acknowledged: The Rev. Canon Marda Steedman Sanborn, The Rev. Dr. Dennis Tierney, The Rev. Edie Weller, and The Rev. Mark Miller.

**Habitat for Humanity Crew** was asked to stand and be recognized for their work around the cathedral, with Sanctuary, with Seattle Service Corps, and the brand-new handrails for stage.

**Seminarians:** Phillip Lienau, Robert Stevens, Kelly Moody, and Lynne Markova, sponsored by this cathedral parish; Adam Conley, who is sponsored by another parish and Lisa Graumlich, Diaconate Formation.

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

Emily Meeks, Clara Berg, Walter Stuteville, and Doug Thorpe, who is completing a one-year term, were presented gifts by Dean Thomason. Karla Koon, Diocesan member of the Vestry who is at seminary was acknowledged for her contributions. Katie Prettyman, Trinity Church, Everett and Tina Blondino, St. Michael's and All Angels, Issaquah are continuing as Diocesan Members. Thank you to Becky Kacel from St. John the Baptist, West Seattle, newly appointed as a Diocesan representative, along with Re Knack and Barbara Erickson, and Erik Donner for all their support. Lynne Cobb has completed her first year as Treasurer and gratitude for her presence was expressed.

### **Appointment of Senior Warden**

Scott Hulet is appointed as our new Senior Warden for 2023.

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

*Whereas Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish has a long-standing tradition of bestowing the Pro Christo et Ecclesia Awards to **Emily Meeks** and **Marc Aubertin**... Presented at the Annual Meeting of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish on this 5<sup>th</sup> Day of February in the year 2023.*

### **Cathedral Cross Award**

Since 1976, 122 Pro Cristo Awards have been given to faithful individuals; the Cathedral Cross was created in 2018 and inspired by the cross on east façade, and with special intention is awarded to **Walter Stuteville**... Presented at the Annual Meeting of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish on this 5<sup>th</sup> Day of February in the year 2023.

### **Closing Prayer and Blessing**

The Dean led the closing prayer and gave the blessing. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson  
Clerk

Erik Donner  
Cathedral Administrator