



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 28, 2018
Bloedel Hall – 1:00pm

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 129th 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 introduced Jenny Donner, Vestry Clerk and Recording Secretary, and John Hoerster, Cathedral Chancellor.

Minutes of 2017 Annual Parish Meeting

Dean Thomason

Minutes for the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting were approved by the vestry at their February 2017 meeting. Steve referenced copies available at the tables and online.

Elections

Election Rules

John Hoerster, Cathedral Chancellor

There are eight nominees for four open Vestry positions. Parish members may vote for up to four candidates. A new rule in our bylaws states that a plurality of votes is sufficient to elect someone to the vestry. It no longer takes a majority. John 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.

Nominating & Leadership Committee Report

John Selberg, Nominating Committee Co-Chair

Steve introduced John Selberg, co-chair of the Nominating Committee. John introduced the other members of the committee who were invited to stand and be recognized. They are co-chair Lynne Markova, Barbara Erickson, Carol Hoerster, Mary Mullen, Walter Stuteville, Gerry van Wesep, and Dean Thomason, ex officio.

John also thanked Kathy Sodergren, Norva Osborn, and Gretchen Cook for counting the ballots, and Liz Bartenstein for putting together the documents.

Presentation of Candidates: Convention Delegates

There is a single slate for the 12 Diocesan Convention delegate positions. John introduced and asked the candidates for Diocesan Convention to stand. They are Margaret Gaines, Liz Gruchala-Gilbert, Phil Haas, Phil Lloyd, Peter McClung, Gordon Miller, Jacquelyn Miller, Ray Miller, Kathy Minsch, Steve Moen, Roberta Nestaas, and Lauren Witt.

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 those nominated.

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 Neshia Alaovae, Bob Chapman, Rosemarie LeMoine, Julia Logan, Michael Perera, Michael Seewer, Robert Stevens, and David Thompson.

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 last year, the parish has seen some wonderful areas of change and growth. She highlighted several areas of work that the vestry has done this past year:

They have provided support in completion of the Living Stones campaign and project. It has been the most successful capital campaign in the history of this church, with almost \$10 million raised to date. With construction beginning on April 17, 2017, the vestry has remained abreast of major changes in scope and schedule, hosted a few Sunday forums for construction updates, and has been involved in securing financing through a diocesan bridge loan and a credit facility with Banner Bank. Lynne recognized Canon for Operations Maria Coldwell and Treasurer Phil Lloyd for their incredible work.

Following the vestry adoption in December 2016 of the *Renewing Our Covenant: A Statement of Commitment and Action* position statement, it was an area of focus this past year as well. Many members participated in forums and activities, including the fall work day in which it was reviewed again for how everything has been going, the impact on our parish and community, and next steps. One of the major activities that came out of that review was to respond to a call by the Church Council of Greater Seattle to become a Sanctuary Hub. A task force was convened, and many activities have followed. She recognized the leadership of Phillip Lienau and The Rev. Canon Nancy Ross in this arena.

We began live streaming services on Easter, and have continued that practice at the 11:00am service on Sundays, and at other services and events. This offering has been very well received. Lynne has additional metrics available for anyone interested.

The vestry has approved an alcohol use policy for campus events, and has approved the designation of becoming a Safe Space in partnership with the Seattle Police Department.

The vestry was privileged to approve the nominations of Malcolm McLaurin and Chris McPeak as postulants for Holy Orders, which were subsequently approved by the bishop.

Lynne recognized the work of Chancellor John Hoerster, Clerk and Recording Secretary Jenny Donner, Treasurer Phil Lloyd, and Executive Assistant Erik Donner (vestry staff support). She also recognized the work of fellow wardens Cara Peterson and Walter Stuteville. She went on to thank Steve for his leadership not only as Dean and Rector, but for his roles as chief fundraiser and construction project manager.

2030 Vision Plan

Maria Coldwell, 2030 Vision Plan Task Force Chair

Maria remarked at what a joy it was to lead monthly planning group meetings from May 2016 through June 2017. She thanked members of the task force for their participation and many contributions. In addition to Maria, the members were Dean Steve Thomason, Chancellor John Hoerster, the wardens – Lynne Markova, Cara Peterson,

and Walter Stuteville, staff members Michael Kleinschmidt and Malcolm McLaurin, Vestry members Christopher Breunig and Alice Reid, and parish members Mary Baldwin Kennedy and Nancy Pearson.

The task force reviewed reports from prior task forces and started with demographic research and a parish survey to gather input. They decided early on that any recommendations for future projects should seek to integrate rather than fragment the campus. They decided that stewardship of current buildings should take priority over acquisition of other property or construction of new buildings. Numerous reports were researched and presented by various task force members. Several outside reports were then commissioned.

The 2030 plan is a report which summarizes and analyzes the data received and makes recommendations for the campus for approximately the next 15 years. It presents a prioritized list of major facilities projects to be undertaken during that time period. The cathedral building is the top priority. While it has undergone major construction this year, several large items remain, including replacement of the boiler, installing radiant floor heating, and finishing interior upgrades.

The plan also includes maintenance projects for other campus buildings, including about \$3 million of deferred maintenance needed for the St. Nicholas Building. Leffler House needs to have the solarium replaced, along with a new exterior deck and stairs. A re-design of the south parking lot was recommended and should be implemented as soon as financially feasible.

The 2030 plan has been presented publicly and has been accepted by the vestry. A copy of the plan may be found on the cathedral website.

Stewardship Ministry

Ralph Ermoian, Vestry Liaison for Stewardship

Ralph re-capped another great year of contributions of time, talent, and finances to the community. They started off around Easter with a celebration of time and talent with a display on the south wall of the Nave. In the fall there was a program of weekly reflections on financial commitments, along with a festive meal and in-gathering.

To date, we have financial commitments for 2018 of about 420 pledges, including about 50 new pledges, and 230 commitments with an increase over the prior year. We have received a total of about \$1.3 million in financial commitments, which is only a piece of stewardship. We have also received endless amounts of time and dedication on a daily and weekly basis. He thanked everyone for their wonderful commitments this year, and invited anyone who is interested in joining the committee to see Ralph, chair Greg Simon, or Dean Thomason.

Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia

Susan Knirk, Cathedral Foundation Chair

Steve remarked that he didn't think that the Cathedral Foundation and Cathedral Parish have ever worked so well together and is grateful for the leadership. Susan provided an overview of the Cathedral Foundation for what it was, what it is, and what it will be.

The formation of the Saint Mark's Cathedral Foundation was approved by the vestry and incorporated in 1995. From generous gifts from those who've gone before us, the Cathedral Foundation was able to make a \$500,000 contribution to the Living Stones campaign in 2014, \$500,000 in 2016, and \$250,000 in 2017. The gifts provided the foundation an opportunity to name the east façade: *To the Glory of God by the Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia*. 2017 also included sponsoring a table at the Gala for Saint Mark's, an allocation for cathedral operating expenses, and an additional allocation for unplanned repairs totaling an additional \$112,000.

The foundation has committed to the revitalization of the planned giving ministry. There will be a pilot program in place for one church year, with 4 phases: planning, pre-launch, pilot implementation and evaluation. Board membership will increase from 8 to 14 members. The full launch will take place in 2019.

Susan concluded by recognizing the foundation board members, who are Vice President Phil Haas, Secretary Sally Farrell, Treasurer Mary Dickinson, The Rev. Josh Hosler, Virginia Lenker, Marshal McReal, The Rev. Katherine Sedwick, The Rev. Canon Lance Ousley, and Dean Steve Thomason.

She also thanked Vestry Senior Warden Lynne Markova for her active role in putting the planned giving ministry plan together, consultant Bill Zook for his time, the cathedral and diocese staff for all of their support, and the Life Planning Ministry committee of Alex Milkey, Jay Ryan, Sandy Piscitello, Virginia Lenker, The Rev. Rich Weyls, The Rev. David Marshall, and The Rev. Canon Lance Ousley. She went on to thank Kathy Sodergren and Jean Leed for their contributions as well.

Treasurer

Phil Lloyd

Phil thanked Greg Bloch for creating the financial charts and graphs. He remarked that the financials have been showing a positive trend since Steve's arrival. We ended 2017 with just under a \$20,000 surplus. Due to construction delays, we were able to do a few extra projects with dollars that had been allocated for loan payments in 2017. The vestry adopted a budget for 2018 which projects a \$6,000 surplus.

For the Capital Campaign, we think the financial dust will settle at around \$10.4 million in costs. We are just under \$10 million in revenue. The difference will be funded with a credit facility of up to \$1 million with Banner Bank.

Phil acknowledged the staff for their support. He added thanks to Steve for not only his role as priest, but for his skill as an administrator. He also recognized Bookkeeper Karen Komoto.

Dean's remarks

Steve provided a reflection on 2017. The *Renewing Our Covenant* statement was fresh to us at this time last year. Out of that statement is an additional 100 people involved in Justice Ministries. Steve recognized and thanked everyone for making that happen.

As previously mentioned, we have raised just under \$10 million in Capital Campaign pledges, which included another \$250,000 gift this week. We are still fundraising, but not as actively as in the past 4 years. There is about \$1.3 million left in pledges outstanding. Steve encouraged everyone to fulfill those pledges as soon as possible, as it will minimize the amount to be borrowed.

Steve next presented a gift to Executive Assistant Erik Donner for all of his efforts during the Capital Campaign. Steve remarked that the project was undertaken without having to hire additional staff (outside of the consultant), and is unusual, given its magnitude.

Steve remarked that ministries are flourishing here. Cathedral relationships have never been healthier and more fruitful than they are now. The Wisdom School is off and running in its 2nd year. He recognized the efforts of Michael Kleinschmidt, Rebekah Gilmore, and John Stuntebeck with the Choir School, and its impact on children's lives. Live streaming began last Easter and has been an abounding success. Steve recognized the work of Liz Bartenstein, Chris Brown, and David Wild. He referenced Education for Ministry, which will be adding a third group for people across the diocese who are interested in attending.

Steve went on to recognize the work of the Habitat for Humanity crew in repurposing Leffler House for both a living space for the Seattle Service Corps members and a sanctuary safe space. They have also worked in the cathedral building at making all levels accessible for those with physical limitations, and are now working on the new child care space. Gordon and Jacquelyn Miller, John Selberg, and the crew were invited to stand and be recognized.

Announcement of Election Results

John Selberg, Nominating Committee Co-Chair

The four nominees elected to the vestry were **Neshia Alaovae, Bob Chapman, Julia Logan, and Michael Perera**. Steve thanked all eight candidates for standing for election.

Dean's remarks (cont.)

Steve invited the congregation to acknowledge and thank the members of the cathedral staff: Barbara Martin, Child Care Center Director; Cam Jarvis, Music Series Coordinator; Chris McPeak, Worship Coordinator; Craig Ackermann, Sexton; The Rev. Cristi Chapman, Curate; Erik Donner, Executive Assistant to the Dean/Membership Support; Gaye Scott, Cathedral Shop Manager; Glenn Sands, Facilities and Events Manager; Greg Bloch, Shop Associate and Liturgical Assistant; Ian Ford, Sexton; Irene Beausoleil, Events and Office Coordinator; Jason Anderson, Compline Choir Director; The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty, Associate to the Rector; John Stuntebeck, Associate Organist; Karen Komoto, Bookkeeper; Kelly Moody, Director of Children's and Family Ministries; Liz Bartenstein, Communications Director; Malcolm McLaurin, Canon for Youth and Young Adult Ministries; Michael Kleinschmidt, Canon Musician; The Rev. Canon Nancy Ross, Associate to the Rector; Rebekah Gilmore, Associate Musician and Choir School Director; The Rev. Earl Grout, Deacon; Emily Austin, Postulant for the Diaconate; and Paige Foreman, Seattle Service Corps Intern.

Steve next provided a construction update. The elevator is now fully functional at all five levels, the windows are all in, and the exterior cladding is in, with caulking to be done as soon as we have more dry weather. The front patio has been poured, and the hand rails will be installed this week. Punch walks with the architects and Turner Construction are under way to identify things missing, not working, etc. The landscaping work has begun. There is some repair work on the portico and the sandstone in front of Thomsen Chapel that is yet to be done, as the product being used for the repairs requires an ambient temperature of 50 degrees.

The vestry members were thanked for their work in the past year, and Steve expressed particular gratitude for the outgoing members: Diocesan Member Christopher Breunig, Jim Green, Karen Knudson, Peter McClung, and Walter Stuteville. He then recognized Senior Warden Lynne Markova, and Junior Wardens Cara Peterson and Walter Stuteville.

Pro Christo et Ecclesia Awards

Dean Thomason

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

Phil Lloyd

Phil has engaged this community with generous affection, goodwill and much grace for more than a decade, and has been a faithful member of choirs, the Cathedral Treasurer since 2011, and has gone beyond the call of duty in managing the Living Stones Campaign funds in a remarkably responsible way. With grateful acknowledgment of his servant leadership, servant's heart, delightful spirit and graceful presence in our midst, we are grateful for his service of Christ and the church.

Carolyn White

Carolyn has quietly and faithfully exercised her role as a minister of Christ in this community through the years with much grace in her roles with Cathedral Associates, including president, a minister of hospitality, and a patron of the arts. On any given day, one might find Carolyn chatting with a resident of Tent City 5, watering or weeding the cathedral's kitchen garden that will nourish the residents that call Bloedel Hall home for a time, leading a team

as they prepare soup for the women of Noel house, speaking prophetically and passionately about the environment, reflecting theologically with others through EfM, sitting at the bedside of a parishioner who is in decline, or gently inviting others into ministry. We thank her for her servant's heart, her earnest love and affection of this community, and her willingness to serve when called upon to the glory of God and its people.

Cathedral Cross Award

Dean Thomason

There are some recipients of the Pro Christo et Ecclesia Awards who continue in leadership in the cathedral community long after receiving the award. For their legacy of exemplary leadership and inspiration, Steve announced the Cathedral Cross Award, with its design unique to Saint Mark's Cathedral, to be given from time to time to former Pro Christo recipients when an exceptional situation exists of individuals demonstrating ongoing contributions to the life of this community.

John and Carol Hoerster

With the Living Stones Campaign and construction project drawing to a close, no one has committed more time and effort to the cause than John and Carol. Beyond the campaign, it is worth noting their service as Senior Wardens, Vestry Members, service on countless parish committees, John's service as Treasurer and as Cathedral Chancellor, Carol's work serving the women of Noel House, their mutual ministry with Habitat for Humanity, and several justice and outreach efforts, their tireless work in the broader community in support of education, the arts, the Arboretum, and global economic justice, and their sublime gift of hospitality. They have embodied ministry among us and continue to do so. They inspire us all to consider what legacy means.

Other Acknowledgments

Steve will embark on a sabbatical beginning April 2, 2018 (Easter Day is April 1), and returning on August 1. Planning has begun. More details will follow, primarily via a parish forum on March 18.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

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

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Donner
Recording Secretary and Clerk

Erik Donner
Executive Assistant