



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

**Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
Sunday, January 26, 2025
Bloedel Hall**

Slight changes to the Election Rules were adopted by the Vestry thereby changing the format of this Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting was called to order in Thomsen Chapel at 8 a.m. to take nominations from the floor (if any). Voting occurred by paper ballot only between 8:05 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Online voting via Zoom was no longer available.

Call to Order, Prayer, Review of Agenda

The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean and Rector of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish, reconvened the Parish meeting with a prayer at 12:45 p.m. Dean Thomason thanked everyone for attending. As there were no nominations from the floor, and voting had ended, the election was officially closed. The tellers began counting the ballots.

Appointment of Chancellor

Re Knack, who attended each service to ensure the Cathedral By-laws were followed, was officially and publicly re-appointed as the Cathedral Chancellor by Dean Thomason.

Introduction of Secretary

Dean Thomason introduced the Vestry Secretary, Barbara Erickson, who will take the meeting minutes. Cathedral Subdean Marc Aubertin, Deborah Person, and Wayne Duncan were thanked for providing the snack trays on each table.

Minutes of 2024 Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes from the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting were approved at the March 2024 Vestry meeting in accordance with the by-laws. They were distributed electronically, and copies were made available at this meeting as well as in the Nave prior to this meeting.

REPORTS

Nominating Committee Report

Co-chair Scott Hulet introduced the Nominating Committee members: Co-chair Maria Coldwell, Jim Buskirk, Carrie Davis, Beatrix Roemheld-Hamm, Adrienne Hubbard, Liz Shea, and Dean Thomason (*ex officio*).

Thank you to the Election Table Monitors: Kristen Kelly, Doug Thorpe, Justin Mills, Christopher Breunig, Wayne Duncan, and Scott Hulet.

The Ballot Counters, Kathy Sodergren, Gretchen Cook, Carrie Kahler, and Tim Shore, were thanked and acknowledged.

Scott talked about the 2024 Strategic Plan and highlighted three themes that the Nominating Committee embraced: 1) Being Rooted in Spiritual Practices, 2) Empowering the Call to Action and Service, and 3) Cultivating Diverse Community.

The 12 nominees for Diocesan Convention Delegates were introduced: Clara Berg, Luciano Falzone, Stone Fennell, Kate Halamay, Carleton MacDonald, Hilary McLeland-Wieser, Michael Perera, David Poortinga, Barbara Selberg, John Selberg, Alexandra Thompson, and David Thompson.

The eight nominees for Vestry were introduced: Kerry Allman, Mary Dickinson, Sam Herring, Hannah Hochkeppel, Mark Lundquist, Sarah McCord, Deborah Person, and Christine Szabadi.

Scott thanked those the committee spoke with, but after discerning the call, had to decline.

Annual Report Booklet

Dean Thomason acknowledged the work of Communications contractor Samatha Clare and Director of Communications Greg Bloch in producing the 2024 Annual Report.

Financial Report

Treasurer Lynne Cobb reported that from 2019 to 2024 the cathedral has been financially healthy as our revenues exceeded our expenses. A review of the operating budget from 2024 was given along with a look at the Vestry-approved 2025 Budget. Lynne also noted that the Finance Committee is operating at full capacity thanks to those individuals who volunteered when additional members were needed.

Senior Warden Report

Greg Hamm began his report by stating “it was a great honor to serve as your Senior Warden the last year and on the Vestry for the last two years.” and by sharing observations – his and of others. He noticed how the vestry comes together – each year a third of the Vestry is elected; each year the Vestry is a new body growing together after the first meetings. We share acquaintance and a set of values and the conviction that together we can accomplish much more...Through these chaotic times, our parish village is a source of solace and peace and strength. Despite all the chaos, the Good News this past year is that our parish is strong, we hosted the election and seating of the new bishop and held an exuberant Cathedral Day. 2024 ended with sound financial shape and adopted a robust and viable budget for 2025. Substantial progress has been made with our Mutual Ministry Goals, we’ve begun the work of stewardship being a year-round spiritual practice recognizing the contributions of time and talent as well as financial gifts. The groundwork for the upcoming Capital Campaign is complete. We have made substantial progress on our exploratory efforts on the development of Affordable Housing on the St. Nicholas properties, although the timeline will be longer than we hoped. The adoption of the Strategic Plan which reflects our shared values and ministries. We are fortunate to have a strong and vibrant parish, and to be part of a courageous Episcopal Church. I feel inspired by the people of Saint Mark’s, the clergy, the staff and the vestry and all of you. Matthew 18, whenever two or three are together in my name, I am there with them. At Saint Mark’s we are a whole lot more than two or three.”

CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS

The election results were certified by Senior Warden Greg Hamm, Dean Steve Thomason, Nominating Committee Co-Chair Scott Hulet, and Cathedral Chancellor Re Knack.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

All twelve Diocesan Convention Delegates were duly elected by acclamation: Clara Berg, Luciano Falzone, Stone Fennell, Kate Halamay, Carleton MacDonald, Hilary McLeland-Wieser, Michael Perera, David Poortinga, Barbara Selberg, John Selberg, Alexandra Thompson, and David Thompson.

Sam Herring, Hannah Hochkeppel, Mark Lundquist, and Deborah Person were elected to the Vestry.

With Doug Thorpe's resignation, the vestry decided at their December meeting to appoint the person who received the fifth highest number of votes to fill this one-year term vacancy. **Sarah McCord was appointed to fill the one-year, unexpired term.**

Dean Thomason thanked the Nominating Committee for their work, those who staffed the election tables, the election tellers, and most of all to all who stood for election. We were reminded that there are no winners or losers; some are called for a specific ministry, some are called to different ministries, and we are all called to minister in this place.

Dean Thomason also noted that feedback on this new election process is welcome and has received some positive feedback; although duly noting that it can be a challenge for those who attend by livestream and cannot vote.

DEAN THOMASON'S REMARK'S

Dean Thomason asked the question and reflection on "Why do we bother being in church today? Why does the church exist today?" Yes, we have challenges, but the challenges we face are not new... We, Christians, people of faith, have stood at the precipice before and have discovered it is possible to practice our faith; Christians are called not to rule the world, but to sanctify it, not to dominate, but to consecrate, not to harvest but to sow... Why Saint Mark's Cathedral? Meaningful worship in a liturgical tradition, invite people to go deeper on their spiritual journey, offer intergenerational engagement, a bedrock commitment to Restorative Justice, Creation Care, and values of dignity and respect; have synergy to service the broader community, to the diocese and to tens of thousands who know this place as a beacon of hope and health and healing. We are not about success, but faithfulness. Faithfulness borne out in the Annual Report, in every one of our lives, we embody the story of encouragement.

Affordable Housing. A new way to embody this call through Affordable Housing. The repurposing of the St. Nicholas Building focuses on the housing crisis. A special forum will be held in mid-April; market factors have caused Seattle to change its funding strategy for housing projects. We are not idle. We have contracted with Donna Moodie, Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle and Capitol Hill EcoDistrict, to help with our story.

Capital Campaign. The congregation has committed the campus to be Net Carbon Zero by 2030. The gas boilers, crumbling nave floor; electric energy efficient heat pump system, include – Narthex update bathroom renovations, further imbed music into a long lasting and sustainable approach across the generations. Announced a signature gift of a Renaissance organ.

Randy Urmston and Eliza Davidson are the co-chairs for this campaign, with John and Carol Hoerster serving as honorary co-chairs.

Finance and Stewardship.

Many churches have experienced a downturn in giving and attendance after the pandemic, but not Saint Mark's. Dean Thomason was happy to announce that Bloedel Hall will be receiving new energy efficient windows. He expressed gratitude for the support of the 2025 stewardship campaign, that to date we have 435 pledges totaling \$1.9 million which is about a 7% increase year over year. All were reminded that pledges could still be made.

Emergency Shelter. Working in conjunction with Operation Nightwatch, an emergency shelter for women, Donna Jean's Place, will be opening and there will be a dedication on Sunday February 2 during the 10 a.m. hour with an open house from 9 to 1 p.m.

Sanctuary Network. The Sanctuary Network is trying to identify what this means in the current era. The Rev. Canon Emily Griffin will take the lead for this cathedral and a meeting with the attorneys is scheduled to learn what we can do faithfully and responsibly.

Staff introduced: Jason Anderson, Marc Aubertin, Wendy Claire Barrie, Erik Bauer, Greg Bloch, Chris Brown, Micah Clark, Erik Donner, Stephen Eddy, Rebekah Gilmore, Michael Kleinschmidt, Elizabeth Antley, John Stuntebeck, Michael Seewer, and Jim Van Horn.

Clergy introduced: The Rev. Canon Emily Griffin, Canon Vicar and The Rev. Canon Rich Weyls, Canon for Community Life.

Deacon introduced: The Rev. Earl Grout

Priest Associates were acknowledged: The Rev. Mark Miller, The Rev. Steve Garratt, The Rev. Canon Marda Steedman Sanborn, The Rev. Canon Edie Weller, and The Rev. Mary Petty Anderson.

Other Recognitions. The Rt. Rev. Phil LaBelle, Bishop of Olympia, was elected in this cathedral space in May and consecrated in September with many Cathedral members serving faithfully in the events. This church has raised up new leaders for the broader church, ordained new priests Phillip Lienau and Robert Stevens now serving other congregations in this diocese, in transition are Kelly Moody, Lynne Markova, and Adam Conley. Seminarian Alison Estep and Jon Achee, who served here as part of their training, and we also support Karla Koon and Emily Meeks.

Dean Thomason thanked the Vestry and acknowledged the Junior Wardens: Julia Logan, Facilities; Phil Haas, Finance; and Peter Snyder, Stewardship.

Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members

The outgoing vestry members Wayne Duncan, Scott Hulet, Kristen Kelly, Justin Mills, and Tina Blondino (Diocesan Member from St. Michael & All Angels, Issaquah) were recognized and received gifts from Dean Thomason. And to Doug Thorpe who resigned from the Vestry.

Additional acknowledgments. Chancellor Re Knack, Secretary Barbara Erickson, Treasurer Lynne Cobb, and Cathedral Administrator Erik Donner.

Appointment of Senior Warden

Dean Thomason appoints Greg Hamm as Senior Warden for 2025.

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 individuals... Resolved, that the Seventh Dean of Saint Mark's Cathedral, serving as

*Rector of the Parish, does hereby bestow upon **Greg Hamm, Michael Kleinschmidt**... 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 2025.*

Cathedral Cross Award

Inspired by the cross on east façade, with special intention... is awarded to **Maria Coldwell**...
Presented at the Annual Meeting of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish on this 26th Day of January in the year 2025.

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Dean Thomason invited everyone to stand and gave the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson
Vestry Clerk

Erik Donner
Cathedral Administrator