

St. Anne's Annual Meeting
Sunday, February 4, 2018

- *Welcome/ Opening Prayer*

Josiah called the meeting to order at 11.09. Rev. Dion Thompson opened with a prayer. Josiah thanked the parish for coming to this important meeting, and thanked those who made the logistics for the meeting possible. Josiah noted that there is paper on the tables for those who wish to ask questions; he will contact them later.

- *Appointment of Secretary*

Josiah Dykstra appointed Thea Chimento as Secretary for the Annual Meeting.

- *Appointment of Parliamentarian*

Josiah Dykstra appointed Ed Hartman as the Parliamentarian for the Annual Meeting.

- *Certification of Voting Members*

Josiah Dykstra requested those present who fit the definition of a voting member to stand, and declared a quorum.

- *Introduction of Head Teller/ Announcement of Tellers*

Josiah introduced John Hair as head teller; John introduced Debbie Houghton, Madeleine Hughes, Susan Jacobson, John Purnell, Claire Purnell, and Jim Rivers. He noted that members can vote up to 5 members for vestry, and up to two members for delegates. JT, Kate, Pippa, Whitney, Katie, Campbell, Claire, and Robbie are the runners for the ballots.

- *First Ballot*

John named the nominees for Vestry. It was moved to elect Carrie Dana-Evans, Mark Grimes, Katherine Hilton, Jason Houser, and David Huggins to the Vestry. The motion was seconded, and carried by voice.

- *Presentation of Parish Finances, Stewardship, and Attendance*

Josiah presented Steve Fisher to provide a report on parish finances and attendance. Steve thanked Kirsten Hair for her work on the parish finances and the counting team.

Steve discussed the General Fund, where most of the expenses of the church are met. There were some concerns this year that there would be a shortfall, but we ended up with a \$65,000 surplus. The surplus will go to the Capital Fund for long term projects.

We received \$887,000 in pledge giving, which came in \$7,000 over budget and is up \$10,000 from last year. Expenses were 2% under budget.

Giving trends: Pledge giving has gone up consistently over the last 8 years.

Cemetery: We ended the year with a surplus, related to lot sales and burial fees. The cemetery has had a cell site for the last 5 years. The site has been renewed for 2018 at a 25% increase in rent. The church is working with AT&T to move the site permanently into the steeple. The Historic Properties Commission has approved the site, and final conversations are underway with AT&T for the lease itself.

PASA: PASA is now headed by Amy Hoffman. We have 120 kids, 19 teachers, and also ended the year

with a surplus.

Endowment: The endowment had an excellent year: returns were 16.09% gross and 15.69% net fees. We have a 65/35% allocation in equities/ fixed assets. \$200,000 was distributed to restricted funds and the general fund. Current balance is approximately \$4.8 million. Thanks to the Investment Committee for their hard work.

2018 expectations: Our budget is based on a net of \$855,000 to account for possible reduced expenses, compared to \$887,000 actuals in 2017. The endowment distribution is up \$12,800. We are budgeting \$30,000 for the Search Committee.

Questions: what are the investment objectives related to income? Has the Investment Committee considered the exposure in fixed assets taking the new tax laws into account? We have a good blend of fixed income, looking at intermediate maturity in AA rated bonds or better. We invest for the long term.

What is our cushion if our revenue drops in the next year or so? Our primary “emergency” fund is the Capital Fund, which we have been making transfers to regularly. The capital fund has \$300,000 in it at the moment. We have been able to keep up transfers using money from the cell sites. We would manage our expenses and consider withdrawing from the capital fund if needed; we have also planned on less revenue for this year.

Does the 2017 numbers include prepaid 2018 pledges? No. There were an unusual amount of prepaid pledges due to the tax bill, but we deferred recognition to 2018.

What happens when the cell site leaves the cemetery? The money within the church is fungible; the movement of the cell site by itself will have no effect; it depends on what the Vestry decides.

Why are our expenses not going down if we are paying benefits for one less priest? The Search Committee has additional expenses; in addition, we are also budgeting for a third priest to start some time in April.

Is it possible to find another cell phone company to set up a site in the cemetery? The cell site currently in the cemetery used to be in the Treasury Building. The city seems to be in favor of the COW disappearing; also we have limited options to find an additional company. So, probably not.

David Huggins presented on attendance. Attendance dipped drastically prior to Amy and Joe's coming, has gone up and stayed pretty constant since then. General decline in the Episcopal Church of 2.5% per year; hasn't happened here in part due to evening services (Sunday services are declining in attendance). Pledging hit a peak in 2012, but has gone down steadily since then, consistent with Sunday morning attendance. Therefore, the majority of the people attending the evening services are not pledging. With the introduction of online pledging our pledging initially went up significantly, but we had a huge decline with the announcement of Amy and Joe's departure and while the average pledge has gone up, we are about 50 pledges “short”.

Note: our pledges are lower than any of the regional churches in the area.

- *Recognition of Vestry Members and Officers*

Thanks to Steve and David for their hard work. Josiah asked for recognition of current Vestry members. Thanks especially to the Vestry members whose term ended today.

Note: our interim starts on Ash Wednesday.

Every year, the Vestry elects officers to serve; thanks to the 2018 vestry officers. Please continue to keep the Vestry in your prayers.

- *Report of First Ballot*

Pat Poffel and Caroline Purdy are elected as diocesan delegates; Howard Buskirk and Larry Earle will serve as alternates.

- *Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes (February 4, 2017)*

It was moved to waive the reading of the 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes and approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded, and the motion carried by voice.

- *Closing Prayer*

Rev. Dion Thompson led the closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 11.56.