

Christ Episcopal Church

Annual Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2017

Call to Order and Prayer

The Rev. John McDuffie convened the 2017 Christ Church Annual Meeting at 10:36 a.m. and offered an opening prayer.

Ascertainment of a Quorum

Recording Secretary Dotty Reitwiesner confirmed that a quorum had been established.

Review and Approval of the Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting

Rev. McDuffie invited comments and corrections to the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting. A motion was made and seconded for the approval of the minutes of the 2016 meeting. The motion passed.

Report of the Nominating Committee & Election

Janice Musselman presented in turn the slate of nominees for Junior Warden, Vestry, Diocesan Convention Delegates and Alternate Diocesan Convention Delegate. The nominees were:

Junior Warden: Wayne Cross

Vestry (3 year terms): Geof Fuller

Adebayo Laniyonu

Delia McCormick

Vestry (1 year term): George Wolohojian

Diocesan Delegates: Joyce Bryant

Henry Mulzac

Lisa Tarantino

Alternate Diocesan Delegate: Christie Carrico

In turn, Reverend McDuffie called for nominations from the floor for each of the above categories. There being none, he called for motions to close nominations for each category and for acceptance of the nominees by acclamation. These motions were seconded and passed for each category in turn.

Senior Warden's Report and a Vision for the Future

Christie Carrico presented an abbreviated version of the presentation on the Plan for the Future of the church and the school: After an increase of enrollment in the early 2000's, the school enrollment dropped to around 160, where it is today; the current mortgage on the Jefferson Building is \$3.3 million. The vision for the school is to build a school building on Foley Park. There were questions from the floor, including the question of selling the Jefferson Building and closing the school; will a report be made to the parish on the campaign; the schedule of the campaign; a question on how much of the campaign involves the parish or is this completely for the school; has any interest been expressed in the purchase of the Jefferson Building; and the question was asked about the parking lot and the ownership of the lot.

Christie said the campaign will be a three-phase process, and a decision on continuing may be made in a week or so. Both the church and the school are included in the capital campaign, and the school will be the principal recipient of the campaign. The realtor is confident there will be interest in the purchase of the Jefferson Building. The city requires that certain parking spaces be kept for the church/school regardless of what happens to the Jefferson building.

Fr John gave a grateful word of thanks to Christie for her continuing dedication. He said she came into the role of Senior Warden with management experience, which has been a tremendous help, and thanked her for her involvement. His words were followed by a round of applause.

Report of the Assistant Rector

Reverend Cindy Simpson recognized and expressed her thanks for the ministries with which she is involved, as she enters her 11th year here. She reported that, outside of the parish work, she is also involved with a number of diocesan ministries. She said this is a challenging time with the pain that we as a parish are facing: we have grown to love the choir soloists; she has enormous respect for the leaders who have had to make difficult financial decisions. We as a parish will navigate through these changes. She concluded by saying she is excited with the possibilities we are facing for our future with the school.

Junior Warden's Report

Janice Musselman first stated the role of Junior Warden is one with property maintenance, and said she will be handing all complaints to Wayne Cross. She asked that all please read her annual report. She concluded by saying it has been a privilege to serve the parish.

Janice continued reporting, saying that the Environmental Stewardship committee is near and dear to her heart. She recognized the committee members, first thanking Mark Wright & Charles Bevington for the energy audit. She then introduced the parish gardeners, saying they had started a major beautification project for the parish 2 ½ years ago.

Christ Episcopal School Report

Dr. Caroline Chapin, Head of the school, first said it is an honor to work with Fr John, Cindy, Christie, and Janice. She shared her perspective on the feasibility study for the Capital Campaign during the school's 50th anniversary. She said the duty of the school is to the church first; the school has touched literally thousands of people through the years. She added that the parish has an amazing outreach through the school. Finally, she added that Cindy is an amazing influence on these children.

Financial Report and 2017 Budget

Treasurer Steve McNeil said he had four points to make: 1-the parish had a good financial year in 2016, as we broke even; 2-we began 2016 without any funds available from the Endowment fund. In 2015 we spent \$139,000 from Endowment, but in 2016 due to a poor showing on the part of the investments, we did not have any endowment money to spend; 3-in the budget for 2017, after requesting proposed budgets, the parish was presented with a target budget of \$800,000, yet based on pledges etc, had to base the final budget at \$775,000, and some ministry spending had to be reduced; 4-the parish is not off to a good start financially. We need to match last year financially, yet we are currently off by 7%.

Allison Roulier addressed the cuts affecting the paid singers, saying that "arts get cut first." She said the parish is losing five members of the congregation, people who are here every single Sunday, including special services. She said this is one of the best choirs, and that when the choir went to England in 2008, they rivaled professional choirs there. With the loss of these members, the choir will not be able to continue their complete repertoire. She asked that all consider a contribution to increase their pledge, etc. if choir means anything to them. She added that for the Christmas Eve 8 PM service, there will be no choir music.

Fr John said he and Christie spoke with the choir on Thursday. He clarified that one of the paid choir members is a parishioner, while the others are not. He said the decision on that budget cut was very painful for the Vestry, as having the paid choir members has provided high level of performance. This year we had a number of faithful pledgers who left, either from moving or dying, and there was also a decrease in pledging from some parishioners. After deliberation, the Vestry chose not to go out to ask for an increase in pledges and he added that all are invited to increase their pledges and to earmark their desire for that increase to be for the music program; any such notes will be reviewed and prayerfully considered.

Bayo Lanionu said the music is wonderful, week after week. He added that if we raise the money this year, we will be faced with the same issue next year. He said this is not an easy decision.

Bob James said he agreed with what Allison said. He added that it is very hard to support a capital campaign if we cannot support day-to-day expenses.

David Gillam said the \$17,000 cut is more like a \$30,000 cut when the paid singers are totally removed from budget. He asked the Vestry to reconsider the cut. He said there has been considerable exasperation on the part of the Vestry for overspending by Choirmaster Tad Cavouti. He added the budget cut should not be taken fully from the music program and the choral scholars program. He said we need to sustain the music program to continue to draw parishioners who appreciate the music. England, he added, has good music programs, and they encourage singing in choirs from childhood, paying choristers through high school. Most of the music budget is for the 11:00 service, where fewer parishioners attend, and he said one option could be to change to one service.

Allison Roulier said when she was looking for a new parish in 2001, she shopped around, and selected Christ Church specifically for the music program.

Steve McNeil clarified that the 2016 budget for paid singers was \$32,000 and the actual amount spent was \$35,500. For 2017 the budget was originally set at \$32,000 but was subsequently reduced to \$15,000 as a result of the shortfall in pledges.

Katherine Schexneider said she did not want this to be a divisive issue. She said the Outreach committee also took a cut to their budget.

Report of the Parish Endowment Fund Board

Endowment Fund Chair Buzz Von Arx reported that going with the Diocesan fund appears to have been a good decision. In 2016, the fund made \$110,318 (our investment was up 9%). For the current fiscal year, we have no idea how the fiscal year will end, but if the S&P continues as it did for the first six months, we should earn the maximum possible income.

Fr John thanked Steve McNeil for his continued dedication. A parishioner commented that Steve was an unpaid volunteer.

Parish Ministry Reports

Supplementing the reports found in the annual meeting packet, Rev. McDuffie acknowledged the following:

- Bob James and the acolytes
- Anna Von Arx and the Altar Guild
- John Arnold and the LLEMs
- Amy Ellis and the Lectors
- Tad Cavouti and the music program
- Buzz Von Arx, Tom & Donna Gentry and John Lynch and their teams of ushers for all three services
- Michele Craig and children and youth programs
- Fran Palmer and the Adult Christian Formation Team

- Tim Smelzer, Kathy Moch and the assembly team for the Angelus
- The coffee hour team
- The Fellowship team led by Bobbie Power
- Yoga and the Spirit, led by Cindy Griffiths
- Suzanne Viglianti and her team of Counters
- Dine & Deal led by Barbara Wolper
- The Pastoral Care prayer team led by Kaye Kubas
- The Christ Church Chefs ministry led by Mary Louise Roach
- Environmental Stewardship, chaired by Janice Musselman.
- Communications led by Jeremy Snider, and the changes to the parish website,
- Welcoming Committee
- Donna Wolohojian and her Bargain Box team
- Outreach, led by Ben Schumann
- The property committee
- Wayne Cross and the Stewardship team.

Old Business

Reverend McDuffie asked if there was any old business. There was none.

New Business

Reverend McDuffie asked if there was any new business. There was none.

There was a question posed about rescheduling the 11:00 AM service to 11:15, to allow more time for the Adult Education.

Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members

Tristan Poje and Mark Wright were recognized for their service on the vestry and were presented with a parting gift. Janice Musselman was thanked by Father John, saying he cannot thank her enough for her dedication, and said she is a real trooper. “Take a siesta!” he added

Administration of Oath of Office for New Vestry Members

Geoff Fuller, Adebayo Laniyonu, and Wayne Cross came forward to be sworn in by Rev. McDuffie as new vestry members. (Delia McCormick will be sworn in at another time)

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 pm. with the singing of the Doxology, after which the attendees were invited to a chicken and waffle brunch in the dining room sponsored by the Youth Group.

Respectfully submitted,

Dotty Reitwiesner