



Minutes of the 262nd Annual Meeting, January 29, 2023

Rev. Sandy Stayner called the annual meeting to order and opened with an invocation.

The Roll of Voting Members was presented. Kristin Peters noted that her name needed to be added. Charles Dimmick moved to accept the roll as amended, seconded by Charlie Waggoner, and passed.

Heather Fitzgerald moved to accept the Minutes of St. Peter's 261st Annual Meeting, the motion was seconded by Wendy Ciaburri and passed.

The slate of Officers was presented. Audrey Notation expressed strong support for Senior Warden candidate Kim Clarke. With no contests for the officer positions, they were elected by voice vote.

The vestry candidates were introduced. With five candidates, a written ballot process was necessary to elect four 3-year full-term members, and one member to complete Heather Fitzgerald's remaining term, which expires at the end of Jan. 2024. Andy Cella, Peter Festa, Carol Moakley and Sancha Works were elected to full terms. Deanna Rozak was elected to serve through Jan. 2024 when she will be eligible to run for a full-term.

The ballot also included the election of Delegates and Alternates to the Diocesan Convention who will also serve as Delegates and Alternates to the Regional Council. Alan Blume and Michaela Hauser-Wagner were elected as delegates and Wendy Dringoli as the alternate.

Rev. Sandy greeted attendees, welcoming all. She referenced her report, which she had presented to the parish in her sermon during the worship service and is included in the posted 2022 Annual Report.

Treasurer Charlie Waggoner gave a detailed report and budget presentation. He provided some historical context and then focused on 2022, emphasizing that St. Peter's had benefitted from income resulting from the federal programs supporting small businesses and non-profits during Covid-19. In the last three years we have received \$45,000 from these programs to supplement our income. He also mentioned that in 2022 St. Peter's endowment fund, which is professionally managed through the ECCT, had experienced a loss due to market conditions.

Looking at the 2023 budget, on the expense side Charlie highlighted the unanticipated increase in our obligation to the ECCT due to inclusion of the PPP payments in the 10% assessment. He also mentioned the recommendation from ECCT to provide a 7.1% cost of living increase to employees. Additional personnel expense changes include the decrease in Christian Education expenses because we have only one teacher currently, and the addition of a Digital

Communications position. Parishioner Barb Sireno questioned why the contribution to the ECCT is labeled "outreach" and asked why there is no line expense item for true outreach in our budget. There was a discussion of both the diocesan assessment and the question of funding outreach and other mission-directed efforts by the parish. Sandy acknowledged the importance of the discussion and recommended that it be addressed by the newly elected vestry.

On the income side of the budget, Charlie described St. Peter's as challenged by a significant decrease in pledge dollars due to deaths and changing situations of long-time, strong members. Although St. Peter's has received the support of new members, they do not offset the losses or meet current expense needs. Charlie also highlighted a new special income line, which reflects a \$10,000 anonymous donation dedicated to maintaining the music ministry and a \$4,000 gift from Sandy and David to return the required cost-of-living raise back to the budget. There was a warm expression of gratitude and admiration for these gifts.

Jr. Warden Sam Dunlop briefly referred to his full report in the posted Annual Report and specifically emphasized the opportunity for rental income and thanked Conner Michaud and the scouts for their support of St. Peter's both in the memorial garden and in the fall, leaf raking projects.

Retiring Sr. Warden John Staab reminded parishioners how he and Nancy had tried to leave St. Peter's when they moved out of Cheshire but were drawn back to "their church." He presented Kim Clarke with his Senior Warden pin.

Clerk Marj Chapman introduced the proposed changes to the By-Laws of the St. Peter's Parish, describing them as "pro forma" to catch up with already accepted practice around virtual meetings and gender-neutral language. Jeff Knickerbocker moved that the changes be approved. Barb Sireno seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Rev. Sandy opened a *Look at the Future* by acknowledging that the Church is changing and that we can't know what the future will look like. Using the analogy of a boat at sea, she described St. Peter's boat as strong, attended to, and seaworthy. Although we face an unknown future, we have signs of what that future might be for us: smaller congregations and new ways of finding God – often in small groups and frequently in collaboration with others. Then she asked attendees to capture in writing where they find life and energy at St. Peter's. She committed to gathering the comments and scheduling a follow-up meeting to provide feedback and future planning.

Rev. Sandy thanked retiring Senior Warden John Staab and retiring vestry members – Wendy Dringoli, Amy Kosciuk, Jeff Knickerbocker, and Becky Whipple – for their service to St. Peter's.

The meeting was adjourned with a closing blessing.

Respectfully submitted, Marjorie Chapman Parish Clerk