

Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of St. John's Church

Washington, Connecticut

January 24, 2021

The meeting marks the 226th year of St. John's Church in Washington, Connecticut.

Attendance

The meeting was held at 6:00 P.M. via ZOOM, due to the pandemic, with 30 parishioners in attendance. Substantially more than a quorum was present.

Opening Prayer

Father Geoffrey Hahneman opened the meeting with a prayer.

Mutuality Guidelines

Fr. Hahneman reviewed the Guidelines of Mutuality provided by the Episcopal Church in Connecticut.

Presentation of the Voting Roll

Father Hahneman presented the Voting Roll, as approved by the vestry.

Approval of the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting

The Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting were accepted and approved.

Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of the Slate

Penny Bardel, the Chair of the Nominating Committee, thanked the outgoing class of Vestry members: Darcy Campbell, Charles Dubow and Rebecca Lambert. Ms. Bardel, presented the slate of officers, Vestry members and diocesan delegates that was selected by the Nominating Committee and received by the Vestry. Ms. Bardel explained that the terms of the wardens were being adjusted to return to having staggered terms, with the result that one warden will come up for election each year. She also explained the Committee's conclusion that it was in the interests of the parish to maintain continuity of the officers, and that the selection of new Vestry members reflected a desire of the Committee and the Vestry to have broad representation from the parish and to bring in new members who have not previously served on the Vestry. There was discussion about potential modification of the provision in the by-laws relating to the notice of the annual meeting. It was noted by Fr. Hahneman that the notice of the annual meeting, including the slate of nominees, was provided in accordance with the by-laws, via a notice posted on the church doors. Additionally, notice of the annual meeting was provided in the weekly eblasts for several weeks prior to the meeting and also via special emails, including an email sent to the parish list on January 21, 2021, which included the agenda for the 2021 meeting, minutes of last year's meeting and the numerous reports provided in connection with the meeting. The slate was as follows:

For Warden for one year: Susan McFeely

For Warden for two years: David Gillespie

For Clerk for one year: Joan Beattie

For Treasurer for one year Larry Littlefield

For Assistant Treasurer for one year: Hunter Brown

For the Vestry for three years: Joseph Claro, Laura Daly and Veronique Dulack

For Delegates to the Diocesan Convention for one year: Sara Coles and MB Witt

The slate was overwhelmingly approved, with two dissents noted.

Wardens' Report

Mr. Gillespie, on behalf of the parish, thanked the following: the outgoing Vestry members; the Nominating Committee for its work in creating a slate; and Father Hahneman for his exceptional service over the past year. He supplemented the Wardens' Report by thanking the "Quiche Committee," headed by Laura Daly, which provided meals for the local needy. He noted one correction in the published Warden's Report – that Joseph Claro, not Justin Ormand, was recently added to the list of VJ's for broadcasting Sunday services and the hope that Justin will be added to this list soon.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Littlefield delivered the Treasurer's Report, presented the proposed budget for 2020 as approved by the Vestry, and entertained questions from the floor. Mr. Littlefield noted that the budget is a living document that will develop as the events of 2021 unfold. For example, the budget could increase if the music program is expanded in some form. Although not on the agenda, and not required by the by laws or the Canons, it was proposed that the meeting accept the presentation of the financial reports and 2021 budget, and acceptance was unanimously approved. Fr. Hahneman noted that the budget is approved by the Vestry. On behalf of the parish, Mr. Gillespie thanked the Treasurer and the Finance Committee, including Hunter Brown, Mary Davis and Andris Kalnins, for their extraordinary work in engaging a new accounting firm and bookkeeper, and in redoing and updating all of the financial reporting and planning for the parish.

Priest-in-Charge's Report

Fr. Hahneman asked if there were any questions relating to the published individual reports. There were none. Veronique Dulack (Chair of the Outreach Committee) added that there is a need for more parishioners to volunteer to make food to bring the parish closer together and to increase our contributions to those in need.

Father Hahneman addressed the state of the parish, as more fully set forth in his report. He emphasized the unusual challenges the parish faced in 2020 due to the pandemic, how the parish addressed these challenges, as set forth in the various

committee reports, including involved process of installing a working video system to live-stream services. He noted that the Sunday services are now live on both Facebook and YouTube, and that he thought that the live streaming was important in maintaining the sense of corporate worship. He emphasized his commitment to returning to in-person worship, including at both 8:00 and 10:00, and other in-person activities, as soon as circumstances safely permit. Potential approaches to Ash Wednesday services and “ashing” also were discussed. He also commented on the fact that, notwithstanding the pandemic, the cottage, rectory and parish hall are all being utilized for the benefit of the parish. He thanked everyone in the parish for their contributions over the past year.

Closing Prayer

Following the dismissal by Fr. Hahneman, the meeting was adjourned.

Annual Reports

Reports were submitted by the Priest-in-Charge, the Wardens, the Treasurer, the Building and Grounds Committee, the Music Committee, the Outreach Committee, the Altar Guild, the Flower Committee, the Hospitality Committee, and the Readers & Eucharistic Minister Committee.

The Annual Report can be found here:

[Annual-Reports-2020.pdf \(secureservercdn.net\)](#)