

## Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

January 31, 2021

At 11 am Sunday, January 31, 2021, about 50 members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church convened by Zoom for the Annual Membership Meeting. The Reverend Kurt Wiesner, Rector, presided; Morning Prayer began the virtual meeting. The slate for new Vestry members: Kim Pilger, Will Grua, Phillip Baese, Lori Morris , beginning three year terms, was presented for acceptance by members. Nominee Kim Pilger withdrew because of family responsibilities. Another nominee, Peggy McCray, volunteered to take her place. These persons were unanimously accepted. The list of 11 persons volunteering to be delegates to Diocesan Convention includes: Jonathan Anisko, John DeMark, Dianne Franz, Barbara Greenlee. Will Grua, Gerry Leonard, Kristin Madden, Peggy McCray, Lori Morris, Stefani Ortman, and David Reed. These delegates were unanimously elected.

The Trustees will be appointed by the Vestry at their next meeting. Trustees make decisions about the Endowment and Trust Funds.

Melissa Wank, Parish Treasurer, presented two budgets; one that reflects operations and income in normal times where we can meet in person, and one that represents the current reality, where we must operate virtually. The Vestry has decided to use the latter until the pandemic allows us to open and meet in the building. Currently pledges are remaining consistent, but we have no plate income. In 2020 we received a \$45,000 government loan to cover payroll of which \$40,000 will likely be forgiven. We also drew on the endowment as we are allowed, up to 3.5% of an average total amount in the

fund through the last 12 quarters. Money from the Trust was taken to cover necessary, planned, repainting of the outside of the church. Going forward, Selma Alfridi, Parish Administrator and the Treasurer will determine whether we qualify to reapply for the newer version of the PPP loan (which may also include \$5,000 not yet forgiven from the former one).

\$250, 000 in pledge income is budgeted, and \$222,000 has been pledged. Expenses have been reduced, but may have to be reduced further. One of these expenses is new flooring for the second floor which is worn out. The Preschool is funding a large portion of this work from a time limited grant. The Vestry will decide if the church's portion of the sum should be covered by the Trust.

The Treasurer pointed out that the Endowment is doing well due to a rise in the financial markets. The Vestry will monitor the budget monthly, and adjust expenses, and program choices. All thanked Ms. Wank for her hard work, which is a voluntary service.

The Senior Warden, John Sheaffer, reported on the difficulties of this past year, and expressed gratitude for technology which allows us to go forward. The Pantry is the only ministry that is physically present. Yet the Parish is healthy with an optimistic budget. In spite of a pandemic, earthquake, and a building flood, we have continued to meet virtually, the Vestry has functioned well in the new normal, and financial problems have been overcome. The Senior Warden and four other vestry members will depart in 2021. These include, Barbara Greenlee, Kristen Madden, Kristy Muday and Joel Deaton. Mr. Shaeffer thanked these Vestry persons. He praised the excellent work by

the Communications subcommittee especially, which can be seen in the improved newsletter, now issued bi-weekly.

The buildings north of the church are still planned to be demolished to create more parking and a community garden. Mr. Shaeffer expressed regret over the slow progress of this effort. Four demolitions bids will be reviewed soon by the Finances Facilities and Administration committee. City permitting must still be requested and attained. The Senior Warden thanked the Rector for the pleasure of working with him for three years. The Junior Warden, Kristy Muday, will become the Senior Warden in 2021. Ms. Muday complemented the work of the Social and Newcomers sub committees. She presented new plans for the Leadership sub committee which has included the Wardens, the Rector, and Vestry members Barbara Greenlee, and Joel Deaton. New documents, outlining the job description for Vestry members, and the responsibilities of the Jr. Warden, have been created. Going forward, Ms. Muday plans to have the Leadership sub committee meet quarterly and kindly review the progress of mutual duties. The Wardens and the Rector will also meet monthly to discuss Vestry agendas and the church calendar.

Town hall style meetings of the whole Parish might be considered.

The Vestry retreat for 2021 will be held on Saturday, February 27 by Zoom. The subcommittees will be formed for the year, and the master calendar established. Kurt Wiesner, Rector, led a discussion about the complex communications issues faced this year. Many improvements have been made. The newsletter has been expanded, and so has the website. There have been updates on the Covid19 pandemic. Vestry minutes summaries are published monthly. The long form of the

minutes are available on request. The church events calendar is shared often. Monthly snail mail has been sent and will continue. The Communications sub committee asked all church members to return the card about the preferred means of communication for their households. The Reverend Kurt asked all to continue to reach out in direct conversation with one another by phone and mail.

The Rector explained that the Bishop has halted all forms of in person worship gatherings, based on the Covid19 rate of infection. The Diocese is doing the best it can; all are trying to stay in communication safely. The congregation is encouraged to stay connected and contribute ideas. One improvement will be an added Zoom Morning Prayer service weekly at 11 am Sunday. The Parish Administrator was praised for her communications efforts.

The Presiding Bishop and the House of Bishops have directed that there is to be no Eucharistic blessing of the elements through virtual means. The theology of the practice is being discussed but is not approved at this time. The Rector said he is considering possible options for sharing in community during on line services. There was a lively discussion.

The Reverend Kurt expressed sincere thanks to outgoing Vestry members, the Parish Treasurer, Clerk, Music Director, and Administrator. He also extended thanks to Leaders of the book groups, participants in the supper club meetings, and Dianne Franz with the card writers. He said he was most grateful to Mr. Shaeffer and wife, Kathy, for their time and sacrifices. Meg Brady was thanked for her work on the newsletter. Sheila Whitney spoke of her gratitude for the whole congregation.

Herman Beck and Lori Morris and the Pantry workers were acknowledged. They regret that the in person part of the ministry is not possible, only pre-bagged groceries are handed out individually.

Lynn Muller reminded all that there will be a blood drive on March 24 in the Parish Hall. It is by appointment only and is already almost full.

Kristin Madden moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 pm. Kristy Muday seconded. The Rector gave a moving benediction.