

## **MINUTES OF THE 162ND ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Trinity Episcopal Church

January 31, 2016

### **OPENING PRAYER**

The opening prayer is available on page 3 of the annual report.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The 162nd annual parish meeting was called to order at 10:50AM on Sunday, January 31, 2016. 60 people were in attendance.

Christine Roth was appointed secretary of the meeting.

Chris Boycks moved to accept the minutes of the 2015 annual parish meeting. Sandra Muinde seconded. The motion passed.

### **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND VESTRY ELECTIONS**

Senior Warden Mary Ellen Wonders introduced the current nominating committee: Loren Baybrook, Cathy Cowling, Jim Killinger, and herself. She then announced the slate of nominees:

- Chris Boycks (Senior Warden)
- Mike Murray (1 year as Junior Warden)
- Paul Wagner (1 year)
- Marcia Smith-Leslie (3 years)
- Risa Freund (3 years)

Marianne Chaudoir moved to accept the slate and vote to approve it in its entirety. Mary Ann Basso seconded.

Jeff Armstrong asked if there were other nominations. Susan Coenen asked how the slate was selected. Mary Ellen Wonders explained that the nominating committee identified the candidates. Chris Boycks added that Father Gary Manning recommended this process to the nominating committee. Loren Baybrook added that the committee wanted to ensure that people had enough notice to avoid spontaneous requests. They spoke to a number of people, but all agreed that they should work on making the process more transparent. Jim Killinger noted that it would not be fair to ask people to serve on short notice.

The motion to approve the slate of nominees passed unanimously.

Chris Roger requested that we clarify the nominating process for next year. Chris Boycks said that he and Father Chris are looking forward to restructuring the committees and processes to improve transparency.

Chris Boycks thanked the two previous senior wardens for their leadership and guidance during a tough time in the parish.

The parish then nominated nine people to serve as diocesan delegates at the annual convention, to be held on Saturday, October 22, in Appleton, Wisconsin. John Milos reported the voting results and thanked everyone for their willingness to serve. The results follow:

Delegates: Cathy Cowling, R.J. Freund, Marcia Smith-Leslie, and Celeste Williams  
Alternates (in order of service): Chris Boycks, Kim Erskine, Christine Roth, and Stephanie Smith

Mary Ann Basso moved to approve the list of delegates and alternates. Doug Berge seconded. The motion passed.

## **PARISH REPORTS**

### **RECTOR'S REPORT**

*See the keynote address in lieu of a report.*

### **DEACON'S REPORT**

The deacon (Sandra Muinde) had nothing to add to what appears on page 12 of the Annual Report.

### **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

The senior warden (Mary Ellen Wonders) had nothing to add to what appears on page 13 of the Annual Report.

Father Chris Arnold thanked Mary Ellen for her service as senior warden.

### **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

The junior warden (Jim Killinger) had nothing to add to what appears on page 14 of the Annual Report.

Father Chris Arnold added that the junior warden has become a sort of superintendent of the church, which could scare away potential candidates. He hopes we can change that culture. He also thanked Jim Killinger for his service as junior warden.

## REPORT OF THE ECW (EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN)

Betty Paterson thanked everyone who contributed to the boutique. It is a great money-maker. She also reminded the group that all women in the church are welcome and invited us to see the bulletin board in the coffee area for photos of what the group has done over the past few years. The rest of her report is available on page 1f the annual report.

## REPORT OF THE EPISCOPAL CURSILLO MOVEMENT

Mike Murray encouraged people who want to deepen their spiritual walk to consider participating in Cursillo. The rest of his report can be found on pages 15-16 of the annual report.

## REPORT OF DOK (DAUGHTERS OF THE KING)

Betty Paterson had nothing to add to what appears on page 16 of the Annual Report.

## EfM (EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY) REPORT

Cathy Cowling reminded the congregation that EfM is not for people wanting to be ordained. It is education for how we do ministry in the world. The rest of her report can be found on pages 16-17 of the annual report.

Claire Armstrong said that there used to be a list of educational classes and times at the back of the sanctuary and asked what happened to it. Father Chris stated that he has the list. He will start putting classes into place at Lent. He wants to aim for one adult education class for every 20 people at Sunday services. The goal for Trinity will be 4-5 classes, but we will start small and build.

## YOUTH PROGRAM REPORT

Jill Milos thanked the parish for making meals, welcoming young people, and showing support for youth ministry. She reminded everyone that Happening is a diocesan-wide event that takes place March 4-6, and everyone is welcome at the closing service. The rest of her report can be found on pages 17-18 of the annual report.

Father Chris Arnold thanked Jill for her work and stated that he would like to connect youth ministry more full to our church community.

## LOAVES AND FISHES REPORT

James Chadoir told everyone that Loaves and Fishes needs volunteers. The rest of his report can be found on page 19 of the annual report.

## OSHKOSH AREA FOOD PANTRY REPORT

James Chaudoir noted that he has taken food to the pantry for the past year and that it is very appreciated. We should keep it up. The collection baskets are located at the back of the church. The rest of this report can be found on page 19 of the annual report.

## USHERS REPORT

Jim Killinger announced that the new committee chairperson is Clark Johnson and thanked him for accepting this responsibility. The rest of his report can be found on page 20 of the annual report.

## PASTORAL CARE REPORT

Sandra Muinde had nothing to add to the submission available on page 20 of the annual report. A corrected report is available on page 2 of the Addenda.

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Barb Schneider submitted the status of pledges, and this information is available on page 21 of the annual report. The current Stewardship Committee is Cathy Cowling and Mary Ellen Wonders.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Cathy Cowling had nothing to add to the information available on page 21 of the annual report.

## REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Marianne Chaudoir thanked everyone who contributed to special music throughout the year, especially James Chaudoir, Risa Freund, R.J. Freund, Michelle Hammett, and Emily Rogers. The rest of her report can be found on page 22 of the annual report.

Father Chris led the congregation in thanking Marianne Chaudoir for her service.

## ALTAR GUILD REPORT

Nancy Murray said that the guild always welcomes people who wish to serve. The rest of her report can be found on pages 22-23 of the annual report.

## FLOWER COMMITTEE REPORT

Marianne Chaudoir had nothing to add to the submission available on page 23 of the annual report.

## REPORT OF THE OFFICE MANAGER

There was nothing to add to Barb Schneider's submission available on pages 23-24 of the annual report.

## REPORTS FROM THE ADDENDA

<i>Jubilate Deo:</i>	Please see page 2 of the Addenda packet for the report.
Women's Book Club:	Denise Robson requested that announcements about the book club include book titles. The book club meets on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00AM. The full report is available on page 3 of the Addenda packet.
Trinity's Creative Hands: 2015 SCRIP Program:	Please see page 3 of the Addenda packet for the report. The profit for SCRIP is down by more than half this year. Claire Armstrong encouraged everyone to support this fund-raising effort. People are welcome to contact either Claire Armstrong or Jill Milos about card selections and percentages. The rest of their report is available on page 5 of the Addenda packet.

## CONSIDERATION OF THE 2016 BUDGET

Father Chris introduced the budget discussion by telling the group that the budget is a spiritual document. It communicates what is important to the parish; it is not just numbers. It is a sacred and prayerful document.

Treasurer Alicia Thornton, CPA, thanked everyone for pledging and thanked the vestry for its support and guidance. She also thanked the Finance Committee.

Loren Baybrook reminded the congregation that, three years ago, the vestry was asked to meet twice a month in order to address budget concerns, and he asked if the church is better or worse off than we were then, when we were asked to make some hard choices. Alicia Thornton responded that we are worse off. We ended this year with a \$50,000 deficit. Three years ago, in 2012, we had only a \$3,000 deficit.

Mary Ellen Wonders proposed that we extend the 2015 budget through the first quarter, until a new budget is proposed. Rebecca Spurlock moved to accept this motion, with the expectation that the vestry will report back to the parish with a revised budget following the end of the first quarter. Loren Baybrook seconded the motion.

Susan Coenen noted that 2016 is not a roll-over because the deficit is \$76,000, not \$50,000. Alicia Thornton explained that we are now paying for health insurance.

Tim Turner stated that the motion may not fit what the vestry decided—that the vestry had accepted this proposed budget as the 2016 budget without revision. Mary Ellen Wonders responded that the understanding was to approve it for the first quarter. Loren Baybrook

said that he didn't remember any mention of three months but that it seemed reasonable, as opposed to an entire year. Alicia Thornton reminded the congregation that this action is in accordance with one practiced in previous years.

Susan Coenen asked if we would have another parish meeting to vote on the budget if we decided to revisit it after the first quarter. Chris Boycks argued that we owe ourselves a comprehensive review of the budget, but he defers to the parish.

Mike Murray argued that the meeting should pass the budget for the year.

Rebecca Spurlock withdrew her earlier motion.

Tami Goodwin noted that this budget does not account for the rector's health insurance benefits. Alicia Thornton explained that the previous rector received a monetary supplement instead of health insurance.

Father Chris said that he would like to hold an informational meeting about halfway through the year to check in and to discuss procedure.

Rebecca Spurlock moved that we accept the 2016 budget as presented. Mike Murray seconded.

Loren Baybrook offered a friendly amendment to give the treasurer the power to make discretionary changes. Rebecca Spurlock responded that the treasurer is not vested with that authority; it would be the vestry's decision. Mick Murray added that the treasurer needs the authority to pay bills, so we need to accept Rebecca Spurlock's motion with the understanding that the vestry will review the budget. Rebecca Spurlock noted that, in passing the budget, we are continuing with business as usual. This budget is a worst-case scenario. Chris Boycks added that the vestry spends the majority of its monthly meetings discussing these numbers, so they are doing due diligence. Loren Baybrook withdrew his amendment.

The congregation voted on the motion to accept the 2016 budget as presented. The motion passed.

Mike Murray told the congregation that this is an opportunity for all of us to think about ways to make money and to save money. We need to think about what we're doing in other organizations and bring good ideas to this group. We're currently draining the resources of the endowment, so we need to make some changes.

Father Chris thanked Alicia Thornton for her work.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **KEYNOTE FROM FATHER CHRIS ARNOLD**

Father Chris Arnold focused on three key areas in his keynote address: expectations and boundaries, his/our work with the vestry, and the work of this parish. He provided his contact information, and he announced that he will respond as able during business hours (Sunday-Thursday, 9:00-5:00). He will also respond as soon as possible in emergency situations. This year, he plans to work with the vestry (our elected representation) to rebuild a basic working trust. For the parish, this year's theme is The Year of Hospitality.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **RESOLUTION #1**

The corrected resolution #1 is available on page 5 of the Addenda packet. Denise Robson moved to pass the resolution. Betty Paterson seconded. The resolution passed.

### **RESOLUTION #2**

Resolution #2 is available on page 34 of the annual report. Ellen Roemer moved to pass the resolution. Mike Murray seconded. The resolution passed.

### **RESOLUTION #3**

Chris Boycks moved that it be resolved that the parish of Trinity Episcopal Church thanks Father Gary Manning for his work with this parish. Cathy Cowling seconded. The resolution passed.

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

The closing prayer is available on page 3 of the annual report.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Father Chris Arnold declared the meeting adjourned at 12:45PM.