

THE PARISH OF ST. AUGUSTINE BY THE SEA
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2020

1. Opening Prayer

Rev. Nathan Rugh called the meeting to order at 12:10 PM in Pierson Hall, and began the meeting with an opening prayer.

2. Hymn 293 – “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

The meeting participants sang Hymn 293, “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God”

3. Approval of Minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting

The minutes of the January 2019 annual meeting were distributed and reviewed by the meeting participants. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded, and the minutes were approved by unanimous voice acclamation.

4. Financial Report

Peter Haight, Treasurer, vestryman, and member of the Finance Committee, presented the Financial Report, in the form of a 2019 Balance Sheet and a 2019 Profit/Loss Budget vs. Actual, handed out to all participants for review (attached). Peter pointed out that the terms profit and loss were not of course accurate for a parish, and the figures actually represented income vs expenses. He then explained the fiduciary responsibilities and organization of the vestry and the Finance Committee. On the income side, Peter noted that income was down due to the timing of an annual distribution from the Kirk Trust, and a postponed philanthropic contribution for the ongoing Divine Office project. He added that we will be getting a tax reimbursement due to a necessary recalculation of our tax exemptions, which the parish fiduciaries noted and filed for. On the expense side, legal fees for the Divine Office and the Education Building paperwork raised our expenses for the year, and that this is a one-time hit that we will need to make some adjustments for in 2020. Payroll was also up due to the increased scope of our sexton, Dave Wulf’s, time and duties (general applause broke out). Peter then went over the financial details of dealing with the loss of rental income from the school and how the parish was dealing with the \$1M gift we received to cover losses until the space is again rented. In conclusion, he pointed out that the parish is in fine financial shape overall, but that we would need to look at a little belt-tightening for 2020 to responsibly respond to the mostly non-recurring 2019 expense and income matters.

5. Christian Education Building Report

Senior Warden Susan Marquis and Rev. Nate then did a presentation (with attached Powerpoint) on the process and outcome of the parish's discernment process and subsequent search for a new tenant for the Christian Education Building (CEB). Nate described the recent history of the CEB's tenancy and the cancelled contract with the Episcopal School of Los Angeles, whose plans to use the building fell through due to financial and planning issues at their end. He noted that we then started a fresh discernment process involving much of the parish. Susan and Nate went over the history of evolutions of the church campus over the years, with photographs. Susan then described the discernment process in detail and how it was that the parish-wide "world-building" process, plus the deliberations of the parish's CEB discernment committee, and subsequent vestry discussions, yielded the decision to rent the space to a mission-driven organization rather than running our own school there, one of the key issues having to do with the expense and complications of the parish running a school and the concurrent loss of rental income. The vestry was fortunate to get several excellent proposals from financially sound, proven, mission-driven organizations whose goals and inspiration would be in harmony with the parish's. After due diligence and further vestry discernment, the vestry decided to accept the proposal from Foundations Family Center for an early-childhood-focused pre-school that would especially focus on the needs of two-income families. Susan described the overall program at FFC, and then she and Nate showed plans for the needed updates to the campus to accommodate the school's needs, most of which had to do with reconfiguring entrances and fencing, including some portable fencing to be used only during the school week. All of these changes will be in the churchyard.

Susan and Nate then briefly went over the financial aspects of the agreement with FFC, and both singled out Junior Warden Paul Slye for his tireless efforts in the process, without which it probably might not have gotten done, at least not as efficiently and with such clarity.

There was then a question-and-answer period regarding logistics of the school's operations on campus, regarding things such as pick-up and drop-off locations, bathrooms, and configuration of the school's interior space. Peter Haight pointed out that the Finance Committee's February annual parish budget discussions would be looking at the impact of the lack of rental income until the school moves in and begins paying.

Paul Slye thanked parishioners Mindy Staley and Nancy Goglia for bringing other possible tenants to us for our consideration. Paul and Nate recognized Susan for her excellent leadership in the whole process.

6. Rector's Report

Rev. Nate briefly spoke, noting that the CEB presentation essentially was his Rector's Report. He remarked that the parish is thriving and a joy to be part of. He added that as previously noted, 2020 will need a period of belt-tightening but that there is no intention to dispense with any significant element of our ministries and worship.

7. Special Recognitions

Rev. Nate then explained for newcomers what the vestry is, and offered special recognition to those vestry members stepping down at this time: Richard Daum,

Jason LaPadura, Darrel Menthe, and Doug Sumner. He added that he asked Susan Marquis, Senior Warden, whose term was due to end, to fill the last year of Darrel Menthe, who needs to rotate off a year early, and to remain in the role of Senior Warden, to bring institutional memory to bear as we work with FFC on getting the school opened and running. Each departing vestry member received the gift of a book.

8. Election and Introduction of New Vestry Members

Rev. Nate introduced the slate of oncoming vestry members: Kiwan Cato-Fox, Pia Glenn, Mary Koske, and Christopher Muntz (not present). There was a motion to accept the slate, and it was seconded and approval by unanimous voice acclamation. Nate led the parish in an induction prayer, and commissioned the new members.

9. Final Prayer

Rev. Nate led the meeting in a closing prayer

10. Hymn 362 – “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

The attendees sang Hymn 362 – “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

11. Dismissal

Rev. Nate adjourned the meeting at 1:20 PM. The new vestry briefly met to elect officers. Those minutes are in a separate document.