

Minutes of Annual Meeting  
Sunday, February 3, 2013  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Woodbury, Minnesota

The meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer at 10:20 am by Ernie Ashcroft.

**Present:** Rector Ernie Ashcroft; Senior Warden Janeen Leick; Junior Warden Phil Vander Haar; Treasurer Aaron Twait; Clerk Catherine Jacobson; elected vestry members Tina Egwim, Shannon Erickson, Laura Eryou, Greg Guffey, Catherine Harrington, Jan Pereyra, Charlene Peterson, and Kristen Wilson; Parish Life Minister Dana Fath Strande; Priest in Residence John Shaver; Postulant for the Diaconate George Ham; Deacon Intern Vant Washington; Parish Minister of Worship Mark Olson; Parish Secretary Marinda Bland; and ~60 members of the congregation.

**Minutes of the previous annual meeting:** Teresa Shaw moved that the minutes of the January 29, 2012, annual meeting be approved. Motion seconded and carried.

**Report from the Nominating Committee:** Janeen Leick announced the following slate of nominees:

- For Senior Warden, Phil Vander Haar
- For Junior Warden, Shannon Erickson
- For three-year terms as vestry members, Paul Fisher, Dan Shoemaker, and Susan Vold
- For a two-year term as vestry member, to complete Debra Hsu's term, Jim Westcott

Teresa Shaw moved that the slate of nominees be accepted. Motion seconded and carried.

Janeen announced the vestry's reappointment of Aaron Twait as treasurer and Catherine Jacobson as clerk for one-year terms. She also recognized the outgoing vestry members, Tina Egwim, Nancy Forman, and Kristen Wilson, and thanked them for their service.

**Financial results for 2012:** Aaron referred the congregation to the annual meeting booklets. For 2012 miscellaneous income was \$1900 less than budgeted, because no weddings were held. Building use donations totaling \$2100 are from the use of our building by Bright Horizons Back-up Daycare and the use of our grounds by Woodbury Lutheran Church for its Vacation Bible School. Open plate offering was \$2800 less than budgeted, as people moved into pledging and membership. Pledge income came in \$6200 above budget. The prior year surplus of \$11,400 reflects 2012 pledges paid in 2011. Income for the year was \$303,256.48.

Miscellaneous expense was \$1800 over budget this year, in part due to supply priests being needed during the June parish trip to England and Scotland. Maintenance costs ran slightly above budget, but utilities were markedly below budget. Programs & Growth was \$1400 under budget. Children, Youth, & Family was slightly over budget, due largely to a one-time purchase of Bibles for the youth. Our Loaves & Fishes costs continue to run substantially under budget, because the Backstreet Grill in St. Paul subsidizes our meals. The hospitality and nursery attendant line items were higher than budgeted, largely due to the Alpha course we held in the summer. Total expenses were \$301,148.55.

We therefore ended the year with a \$2107.93 surplus

In response to a question, Aaron said that the Outreach line item is largely for Loaves & Fishes. We continue to budget for that as though we were not receiving any subsidy, because that support could stop at any time. In response to a question, Aaron explained that going over \$300,000 in expenses this year will affect our 2014 diocesan Mission and Ministry Support; unless the formula changes, our contribution will increase ~\$6000.

**Stewardship report:** Blane Huppert briefly reviewed the stewardship report in the annual meeting booklet. He said that the stewardship campaign met the Finance & Legal team's and the vestry's target. We are beginning 2013 with 102 pledges, totaling \$283,605; this is the first time, at least in recent memory, that we have begun the year with more than 100 pledges. Blane also noted that the average pledge continues to increase. He referred parishioners to the summary of year-over-year change in pledging in the annual meeting booklet.

**Capital campaign:** Greig Metzger noted what a wonderful new space we were meeting in. He thanked Dave Leick, Catherine Harrington, Jack Leick, and the Building & Grounds team for their hard work on renovating the fellowship hall. As noted in the annual meeting booklet, we have received more than \$243,000 in pledges for the capital campaign. He noted that we would like to have \$250,000 in funds and encouraged those who have not yet pledged to do so. He noted that many projects were completed in 2012. The capital campaign committee is currently saving money to replace our furnace in the spring or summer. In response to a question about the difference between the initial budgeted amount and the new estimate for a furnace, Greig replied that the new estimate represents a more up-to-date understanding of what funds will be needed and includes technologies to increase energy efficiency.

**Budget for 2012:** Aaron began by noting that he should have presented the 2012 balance sheet with the 2012 financial results. He referred parishioners to that page in their annual meeting booklets. He explained that, although our checking account balance ended the year at ~\$56,000, ~\$44,000 of that is from the Lilly Grant for Ernie's sabbatical and is being held in the transmittal fund. The savings account is for our capital campaign; the amount doesn't equal that in the building fund because some money was received at the end of the year and was still in the general checking account as of December 31. The general fund balance is -\$18,114.86, because we have borrowed against ourselves in the past.

Aaron then presented highlights of the budget for 2013. Total income is budgeted to be \$307,513. (The value for 2013 pledges is slightly different from what Blane presented, because another pledge came in after the budget was adopted.)

In terms of expenses, the miscellaneous expense, cleaning service, maintenance, and hospitality line items were increased vs. the 2012 budget, and utilities were decreased vs. the 2012 budget, to reflect recent spending trends. Copying expenses is budgeted lower than 2012, because we have a new contract with a new provider at a much lower rate. Our street assessment has been fully paid. Our payroll costs have increased, because the diocese mandated a 3% pay increase; this is the first increase in four years for our staff and is long overdue. (The secretarial wages actually decrease, however, because we will have a secretary one hour less per week than in 2012.) The rector's insurance is lower than in 2012 because it is expected that Bette Ashcroft will be going on her employer's insurance plan during this year. Aaron reminded the parish that we have a bonus arrangement with Dana Fath Strande; it is in lieu of insurance coverage. We had paid the first 2012 payment in 2011, so the 2013 budget returns to reflecting four quarterly payments. In addition, we have budgeted for expenses related to Dana's formation for the priesthood. Total expenses are thus budgeted to be \$307,509, leaving us with a surplus of \$5.

In response to a questions, Aaron said that our budget includes receiving \$4000 in additional pledges throughout the year. He explained that our 2013 Mission and Ministry Support is based on our spending in 2011. He also explained that Metro Transit pays for half of our snowplowing contract and half of the costs of resurfacing our parking lot. Aaron invited parishioners to ask him questions later and to come to Finance & Legal team meetings.

**Recognition:** Ernie recognized fifty-year members who were present: Betty Barrett (89 years), Denny and Caryl (72 years) Davis, George (82 years) and Beverly Hartzell, and Tom Hunter (62 years). Ernie offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the lives of those parishioners who died this year: Gen Engfer, Katherine Grunz, Dorthea Larson, Michael Merritt, David Potosky, and Nancy Sauter.

**Accomplishments and the future:** Ernie called attention to his report in the annual meeting booklet. He noted that George Ham is in formation as a permanent deacon, and Dana Fath Strande is in formation for the priesthood. He said it's been a joy to work with them. George will be ordained in June and then will be working with our parish. And it's wonderful to see how things are coming together for Dana.

Ernie recognized Janeen as our out-going senior warden. He said she's done a wonderful job and been a tremendous support.

He reminded parishioners that diocesan convention delegates and alternates serve three-year terms, so those elected last year will continue to serve.

Ernie noted that he had awarded the Rector's Cup last night to Blane, Sandy, Zachary, Xavier, and Quinn Huppert.

He reminded parishioners that he will be taking a sabbatical April through July. During his sabbatical he'll be exploring what his next step will be, after his retirement in mid-2015. As a result of the hard work of many people in the parish, he was awarded a grant that will cover his costs as well as the parish's costs for supply priests and special programming. He shared with parishioners that he will leave Easter afternoon and spend time in England (with family and friends, in Iona, and along the coastal path). He will be reading about new ways of "doing church." He will be visiting six Episcopal congregations around the country to learn their best practices so that he can share them with us. He will also be visiting Australia and New Zealand. In response to a question, Ernie said that he has been instructed not to contact us during his sabbatical; he will tell us all about it when he comes back!

**Adjournment:** Ernie led the parish in prayer and adjourned the meeting at 11:19 am.

Catherine F. Jacobson, Clerk