



SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, February 22, 2009 – 1:00-3:00p
Bloedel Hall

CALL TO ORDER

The Rev. Canon Rebecca L. McClain, Canon Missioner, called the Parish Annual Meeting to order at 1:15pm. The meeting began with a hymn “Not Here For High and Holy Things.” Rebecca offered a prayer for guidance and courage.

Rebecca introduced the people seated with her at the front table: Nancy Ousley, Nominating Committee Chair; Phil Haas, Finance Committee Chair; Randy Urmston, Senior Warden; John Hoerster, Chancellor; and Ann McCartney, Cathedral Parliamentarian.

MINUTES OF THE 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

Rebecca recalled last year's resolution that it was not necessary to read and approve the 2008 minutes at this meeting. Per the 2008 resolution, the minutes of 2008 Annual Meeting were reviewed by the Governance Committee, posted on the Saint Mark's website, and available in the Nave. Rebecca encouraged anyone with questions or comments to contact the Governance Committee co-chairs, Margaret Rothschild and Judy Andrews.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE– *Nancy Ousley, Chair, Nominating Committee*

Nancy acknowledged the work of the Saint Mark's members of the Nominating Committee: Mac Brown, Janet McCully, Meg Matthews, Nan Nalder and Pat Taylor.

- *Introduction of Diocesan Convention Delegates/Alternates, Voting*

Nancy asked nominees for Diocesan Convention delegates to stand: Hisako Beasley, Amelia Canaday, Chris Christensen, Carole Green, Susan Knirk, Mark Gaaserud, Sean Horner, Paul McDonald, Marshal McReal, Roger Valdez. **Rebecca asked for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the slate for nominations for delegates was closed.** Since the number of candidates equaled the number of open positions and there were no objections to voting for the complete slate, **the slate was elected unanimously by voice vote.**

- *Introduction of Vestry Candidates, Voting*

Nancy asked nominees for Vestry to stand: Marge Anderson, John Friedman, Bob Kirkman, Rene Marceau, and George Pro. The sixth candidate nominated by the committee, Richard Fulton, had withdrawn his candidacy prior to the meeting for health reasons. **Rebecca asked for additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the slate for nominations for Vestry was closed.** Rebecca asked continuing Vestry members to stand. Those whose terms end at the 2010 Annual Meeting are Kathleen Croston, Janet McCully and Bob Muglia, Diocesan Representative Sam Fleshman, and Community Representative Margaret Rothschild. Those whose terms end at the 2011 Annual Meeting are Terry Brandon, Phil Haas, Randy Revelle, Diocesan Representative Nancy Jacobs and Community Representative Dennis Andersen. Rebecca introduced Rev. Patty Baker, who will be the Diocesan Representative through the Annual Meeting 2012. A

candidate for Community Representative thru 2012 has been asked, but has not yet confirmed. Rebecca invited the five parish candidates to make 2 minute statements of their background and goals.

RULES OF ELECTION—*John Hoerster, Chancellor*

John Hoerster reviewed the election procedures, and the definition of “communicants in good standing” who are eligible to vote in parish elections.

VOTING:

Ushers distributed paper ballots for vote on Vestry candidates. **Rebecca instructed voters to vote for no more than three names.** Rebecca then prayed for God’s courage and guidance. At the end of the votine, ballots were collected by ushers and counted by members previously selected by the Nominations Committee.

CANON MISSIONER’S REPORT:

Rebecca began by noting that she has been at Saint Mark’s for four months, through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. She acknowledged the passion and efforts of many people in developing a core mission or guiding star. Remembering the story of Jesus coming down from the mountain, she said that we are called to help those who have lost hope and Saint Mark’s, as the beacon on the hill, is a place of hope, welcome, and inspiration. It is a place where we are changed, transformed and ready for action.

Pro Christo Awards:

Steve Hartwell, for “bringing beauty to our lives.” Steve has designed several sets of vestments, including a new set to be used at Lent.

Ray Miller, “who quietly and calmly fixes problems before anyone even knows about them.” He is head of acolytes and liturgical ministers. Rebecca added that Steve and Ray celebrated their 27th anniversary yesterday.

Joni Pritchard, who diligently maintains the prayer chain and is also an assisting lay minister and chalice bearer.

Staffing Update

Rebecca announced that Mary Coon will stay at Saint Mark’s as Director of Abundance. Mary will oversee finance, development, and stewardship. Rebecca praised the entire staff for their faithful, tireless and passionate commitment. On the lighter side, Rebecca gave Becky Morrill a gift for the new kitten she is adopting. Following the sudden death of her husband, Sue has decided, and Rebecca has agreed, to return to Saint Mark’s as a parishioner, but not as a member of staff.

SAINT MARK’S FOUNDATION REPORT – *Jean Leed, Chair, Foundation Board*

Jean Leed, newly elected chair, acknowledged that the Foundation had a difficult year with staff and board turnover. Looking forward, the Foundation has new members and officers and a stronger relationship with the Vestry. Cathedral treasurer Steve Moen will serve as the interim Foundation treasurer. The Planned Giving Committee, chaired by Kathy Sodergren, produced a brochure to encourage parishioners to remember Saint Mark’s in their wills and become members of the Cathedral Legacy Society. Jean noted that the Foundation gave the Cathedral nearly \$60,000 last year. In this time of financial turmoil, the Foundation has the strength and commitment to help the Cathedral and Vestry “turn challenges into opportunities,” address the critical issues of deferred maintenance, and build endowments to support the Cathedral.

MISSION AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE REPORT – *Bob Muglia, co-chair*

After a parish meeting in June and a survey over the summer, the committee identified 8 critical issues: spirituality and programs; building strong community; leadership; facilities; multiple roles of the parish and the Cathedral; outreach; Christian stewardship and financial health; and communications, culture, and spirit. The committee continued to work with the Collins Group, and held more parish meetings in October and November to identify what success in these areas would look like. The report is available on the Saint Mark’s website. Rebecca has encouraged the committee to work on a “guiding light” or mission statement, along with

four core values, and four strategic goals that can be accomplished in the next 3-5 years, all on one page, and easy to communicate and remember. The committee plans to circulate a draft to the congregation during Lent with the final voted by the Vestry at the May meeting and presented to the community at Pentecost. Bob shared a draft statement: Welcoming All to Live the Life of Christ.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT – *Randy Revelle, co-chair*

Randy distributed a handout of stewardship activities and results. He acknowledged the challenge of conducting an Annual Campaign in the tough economic times. The campaign's three goals were to: conduct a faith-based stewardship campaign, receive pledges from at least 600 households, and raise at least \$1.35MM to fund a "status quo" budget. The goal was decreased in November to \$1.15MM due to the economic climate. In the last four days of the campaign, 60 pledges and \$100K were received, for a total of 522 pledges, or \$1.16MM. Next year's campaign will focus on time and talent, as well as treasure. Randy praised the hardworking Stewardship committee: Greg Simon, co-chair, Phil Haas, Randy Urmston, Jo Ann Bailey, Louise Kind, Jean Leed, Penny Reid, Kathy Sodergren, Gerry van Wesep, and staff support from Marilyn Cornwell, Betsy Nelson, and Alicia Sands. Joyce Ramee, Bobbi Nodell and Virginia Lenker will be joining the committee.

2008 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS – *Phil Haas, Finance Committee Chair*

Phil agreed that 2008 was an interesting year for both Stewardship and Finance Committees. Both worked to be transparent as possible. The complete 2009 Operating Budget and Monthly Operating Summary are available on the Saint Mark's website: click on About Us, Vestry, and Financial Information. Phil praised Mary Coon's outstanding leadership in a very difficult year. Total actual expenses in 2008 were 10% under budget, and lower than in 2007. About half of the dean's severance payments came out of Vestry designated reserves, and not from the operating fund. In 2009, the operating fund will still rely on major gifts and grants, and diocesan support. *Saint Mark's Celebrates Seattle*, or a comparable event to raise funds for outreach ministries, is budgeted to raise \$100K. Looking ahead, the major grants that have supported Church in the World will be ending in 2009, and diocesan support will decrease by about \$15K in 2010.

THANKS TO RETIRING VESTRY

Rebecca thanked Randy Urmston, Senior Warden, for his service and assistance to her, as the new Canon Missioner. Randy acknowledged that "compared to 2007, this has been a fun year." He thanked each member of the Vestry with a humorous and kind anecdote. Randy praised Mary's management of the Saint Nicholas building, which included creating office space for three members of the National Church and updating Skinner Theater and making it more available to the Saint Mark's community. Randy acknowledged the leadership of Bishop Greg, Father Ralph, and Rebecca in putting us on a firmer Carol Hoerster, Herb Williams, and Miller Adams, Community Representative. (*n.b. Randy Urmston also completed his term on the Vestry today.*)

ELECTION RESULTS – Nancy Ousley

Nancy thanked all of the candidates for their willingness to be part of the cathedral's leadership. She also thanked the tellers for counting the ballots efficiently and professionally: Kathy Sodergren, Mary Bayne, and Norva Osborn. She then announced that John Friedman, Marge Anderson and Bob Kirkman received the highest number of votes, and were elected for a three-year term.

COMMISSIONING OF NEW VESTRY AND CONVENTION DELEGATES

Rebecca asked all of the newly elected members to stand. She asked God to bless them in their ministries of servant-hood, discernment and leadership, and asked the congregation to support them.

CLOSING PRAYER—*Marilyn Cornwell.*

Marilyn thanked God for setting us on fire, and helping us to live into the vision of Welcoming All to Live the Life of Christ.

ADJOURNMENT/DISMISSAL

Marilyn thanked the chefs, Duncan Bayne and Paul McDonald, and facility staff, Scott Gibson and Andy Hunt. Judy Whetzel led a round of applause and thanks for Rebecca's vision, leadership and inspiration.

Next year's annual meeting will be moved a month earlier, to Sunday, January 17, 2010.