

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting**  
**January 26, 2020**

**10:50:** Welcome and call to order

- Ian Burch is chair; Brooke Frizzell is clerk.
- Rules for voting: communion 3 times, given \$1. The bylaws state you are supposed to be known to Rector and Senior Warden. Senior Warden Kathy Katter confirms everyone voting is known.
- Minutes from 2019 annual meeting reviewed. Ellie Mixter-Keller moves to accept them without change; motion seconded by Genevieve Vassell; motion passed unanimously.

**10:53:** Thank you to outgoing Vestry members

- Michael O'Hear, Brooke Frizzell, Cheryl Johnson (who moved in fall 2019)

**10:54:** Election of new Vestry members

- Slate to fill open terms: Judy Young, Genevieve Vassell, and Steve Martinie
- Motion to accept this slate of candidates made by Vince Katter; motion seconded by Harry Moseley; motion passed unanimously.

**10:57:** Election of convention deputies

- Milwaukee diocesan convention will be October 2 and 3, 2020. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be attending.
- Our bylaws provide for sending 2 people, and we customarily send senior warden, junior warden and two others.
- Slate of diocesan convention delegates: senior warden Kathy Katter, junior warden Bill Hunt, Nathan Self, and Ginny Schrag
- Motion to accept the slate made by Travis Trott; motion seconded by Harry Moseley; motion passed unanimously.
- No alternates were previously nominated. Sue Rohde and Vince Katter volunteer to be alternates.
- Motion to accept Sue Rohde and Vince Katter as alternates made by Mary Beth Alvarez; motion seconded by Ellie Mixter-Keller; motion passed unanimously.

**11:00:** Election of junior and senior Warden

- Wardens can serve up to three consecutive one-year terms
- Kathy Katter and Bill Hunt have agreed to each serve another year
- Motion to accept Kathy Katter as senior warden and Bill Hunt as junior warden made by Bill Florescu; motion seconded by Ellie Mixter-Keller; motion passed unanimously

**11:01:** 2019 Financial report, presented by treasurer Bruce Jacobs

- Strong year in revenue: \$457,000
- Most went to staff and then building expenses (about \$45,000 in maintenance/capital expenses)
- Ended with 2019 with modest surplus; ended the year with almost \$90,000 in checking account and our liquid investment account has about \$275,000
- Our balance sheet reflects a valuation of the building, which has been listed at that value for a long time but not assessed
- Our goal for 2020 is to restrain building spending as best we can
- Because we are growing, our diocesan assessment has gone up for 2020, but we are getting a substantial amount via a grant

- Absent any unexpected revenue, we are operating at a deficit
- Our challenge is to figure out how to maintain this facility with the revenue we have

**11:07: Senior Warden Kathy Katter's Report**

- Question from Harry Moseley about last year's minutes and the discussion of investment accounts; Rev. Burch to address that in his report
- Reflections on first year as Senior Warden: it has been joyful service, and this place runs well with everyone's help. Special thanks to junior warden Bill Hunt for all his attention to the building and to treasurer Bruce Jacobs for his assistance with our budget.
- Vestry is carefully looking to the future. We are in the process, which is long but slow and deliberate, of looking at development issues in the future. It is hard to keep on top of repairs, we have done it and keep doing it, but we are looking forward for a solution to keep this place going for 10, 50, 100 years. We must consider what we want this place to be when we are no longer here.
- Kathy asks the parish to be open to change, and we will make that change carefully.

**11:14: Rector Ian Burch's Report**

- Last year, we had some confusion about changing a bylaw regarding an account that does not exist in order to clean up the bylaws. It was very confusing, and rector promised to bring an infographic to explain it. Due to parish administrator's Sara Bitner's medical leave, the infographic did not happen. We will address this next year. Because the relevant account no longer exists, leaving this issue until next year is not a big deal.
- Thanks to those who made today's lunch happen.
- For 2019, we added a worship service. Four years ago when the rector started, we had one Eucharist a week, and now we have three. Today's 8am service had 4 people, but 3 of them had never walked through these doors before 2019. Wednesday night service is almost always regular attendees, not new people, which indicates Sunday worshippers were needing something else. Both of the new services are wonderful in ways that the rector did not expect.
- The Vestry and the rector came up with three-year contract, and the rector is excited.
- Regarding our finances, they are generally strong but they are also sucked up by this building. Both the basement and second floor are inaccessible, and the building is full of asbestos.
- The rector is helping lead the Bishop Search Committee; as a result will not be in this building quite as much. The rector is excited but also nervous about being able to stay on top of things, so he welcomes feedback and prayers.
- We have four people somewhere in the process of Holy Orders, which is a good sign of life for a parish. We have one candidate for the priesthood, Kirsten Guidero, who will likely be ordained in the next 12-18 months. Matt Phillips is a postulant, and he will likely be going to seminary in 18 months (which means we will have to figure out how to handle his responsibilities). Nathan Self is going through the discernment process. Crawford Wiley, who attends the Wednesday service and works elsewhere as organist on Sundays, just started the discernment process.
- We are growing at a rate of about one percent per month. This year there have been some murmurs about not knowing everyone in church, which is a sign of grief. We are on the cusp of moving from a pastor sized church to a program sized church, from where everyone knows pastor to where people know a ministry head better. If you have a gift for hospitality and organization, please talk to the rector because we need to grow smaller as we grow bigger. A good example is the Lectio Divino group started by Judith Miller. We can find money, but can we find intimacy? We have exciting work ahead of us, but it must be intentional.

- Special thanks to Judith Miller for facilitating discernment discussions about a capital campaign, what we want ministry-wise, and what we want in our physical plant.
- Capital campaign has come to a tricky phase because there is a gap between what we might be able to raise and what it would cost to transform this building into what we need. The Vestry is going to start trying to get more creative, but there will likely not be a capital campaign ask this year.
- What we are trying to figure out this year is how we can be of one mind.
- Special thanks to staff and associate clergy, deacon Michelle Mooney and associate priest John Hickey.
- Invitation for questions
  - Doris Kiely proposes a yearly gift to the associate clergy. The rector states that this needs to be addressed at Vestry meeting.
  - Discussion of spam/phishing emails: if you get an email from someone saying they are Ian and requesting gift cards, it is a scam. Double check the email address because it will be slightly off. You can trust proper parish communications like the Lion and Weekly Happenings. If it seems even a little bit strange, reach out to the rector directly before doing anything else.
  - Question from Vince Katter regarding the capital campaign: what is the rector's expectation regarding communications to parish? The rector expects a significant communication in the next four weeks, as the rector and the senior warden have been meeting with people.
  - Jayne Heffron asks the rector to share a moment from the last year when God was particularly close, and the rector says Jennifer West's funeral. Jennifer died way too young, and the parish wrapped its arms around the family and handled it with grace. That is the Body of Christ.
- Please look over the ministry reports.

**11:38:** Prayers for those who have died

- Jennifer West
- Alex Martin

**11:39:** Closing Prayers and Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn made by Graicey VanSpankeren; motion seconded by Brooke Frizzell; motion passed unanimously, and meeting is adjourned.