



Faith Episcopal Church

Annual Meeting
January 29, 2017

MINUTES

The mission of Faith Episcopal Church is to pursue a deeper understanding of the mystery of God, to offer the hospitality of the Gospel, and to work for a just and compassionate community.

- 1) The annual meeting of the congregation of Faith Episcopal Church was called to order at 9:45 a.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes: A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2016 annual meeting.
- 3) Presentation of Nominees for Bishop's Committee: Cindy Louter presented the candidates identified by the nominating committee to fill three slots for three-year terms on the Bishop's Committee: Lorelei Auld, Barbara Kimler, and a nomination from the floor for Geof Farnsworth. A motion was made, seconded and carried to elect the candidates.
- 4) Presentation of Nominees for Delegate and Alternate for the 2017 Diocesan Convention: Cindy Louter presented the candidates Janet Chisholm and Ellen Coxe Price. A motion was made, seconded and carried to elect the delegates.
- 5) Treasurer's Report and Approval of 2017 Budget: The 2017 budget has been approved by the Bishop's Committee. Cindy Louter reported for Treasurer Janet Chisholm that the treasury is in excellent condition. The 2016 year ended within \$50 of budgeted income, but instead of a budgeted surplus of \$6,500 we had a net deficit of \$6,700; this is despite not receiving a \$10,000 mission share grant from the diocese. Our 2016 budget signals to the diocese that we are moving toward becoming self-sustaining (the diocese requires three years of operations without support of a mission share grant to transition from mission to parish status).

Questions & Answers

Are we going to have permanent clergy again? We would be required to pay benefits and salary, which has comprised 65% of our budget in the past. Hiring retired clergy may be a cost savings but would still require mandatory payments for benefits and other payroll costs established by the diocese for any clergy employees, plus 1% of plate and pledge.

What are the results of the parish survey about the clergy rota plan? The link to the survey is always live on the website. To date there have been only a few responses, including comments that the rota schedule doesn't give the parish or clergy opportunities to establish connections and get to know one another; others commented that they like the rota members. In response to these comments, the rota schedule has been rebuilt to have clergy serving several weeks consecutively rather than rotating every week. Having permanent clergy might be more forward-thinking and foster deeper involvement of both clergy and congregants, thereby warranting the increased financial commitment. Cindy commented that deeper involvement of the congregation is warmly encouraged and desired; several open meetings will be held throughout the year and all are encouraged to participate and provide input on the direction the church is going.

Did survey respondents request adult education? Some interest had been expressed in the survey, and there was good participation in the adult ed events offered in 2016.

What is included in budget line labeled "designated"? Included is income from things like the choir's candy fundraiser, which have a designated purpose; separate spreadsheets are maintained for such activities and unexpended funds carry forward to following budget years to ensure they are spent for the designated purpose(s).

What about income from facility usage? Susan Parr explained that the facility is requested by outside groups for such things as music recitals and recordings; this generates income that offsets facility expenses. Other groups that request facility access include the Bah'ai, interfaith council, and 12-step groups.

Who are the current members of the clergy rota, and is their schedule sufficient to meet our needs? Revs. Valerie Hart, Pat Eustis, and Dawn Vucich are our rota members. Rev. Pat will be unavailable from April through June due to another commitment. We have an opportunity to schedule clergy who are visiting from out of state for a few months, with permission from the diocese. Adding a deacon at this time is not practical. Adding members to the rota may dilute the connections we have among the three currently serving. Rev. Pat agreed and suggested that the clergy desire more communication and knowledge of the needs of the congregation; perhaps a team of four members would agree to receive and communicate information from the congregation to the clergy. There is a list of supply clergy from whom we could choose, should we desire to add more people to the rota. The rota schedule through Easter is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

What is the status of the Morgan Stanley account? There is \$30,000 in the checking account and \$10,000 of that will be transferred to the MS investment account now that the 2016 books have closed. We haven't been drawing the MS balance down but also haven't replenished it in 2016. The Sutton Trust account has been reimbursed for expenses of altar cross fabrication.

- 6) Ministries Reports: Commenting that it takes a village to keep the church functioning, Cindy Louter invited the standing committees to comment on their ministries. Music: Susan Parr acknowledged the efforts of Geof Farnsworth and the vendors who responded to his emergency call to repair the damage to the ceiling and roof, just in time for the Christmas Eve service; with the loss of only one poinsettia. Signage: Ralph Behrsin acknowledged Bryan Price for fabricating and installing the permanent signage on the street. Worship Assistants: Bryan Price acknowledged the efforts of vested crucifers and chalice bearers; it's important to have these worship assistants at every service, and for us to be there for our clergy. Rev. Pat acknowledged chalice bearer Kristen, who all the clergy rely on and appreciate. Welcoming: Barbara Kimler and Jeanne Dmytriw developed a plan for welcoming and greeting worshipers every week; people are encouraged to sign up for these important roles. Building and Grounds: We need a volunteer to care for the plants and garden in front of the building. Youth Formation: Cindy encouraged more kids and teachers for the Godly Play program.
- 7) Recognition and Thanks: Nancy Davis acknowledged Cindy Louter for all she does. Cindy acknowledged and thanked Bishop's Committee members Nancy Davis, Geof Farnsworth and Bryan Price for their three-year terms. She will not serve as Bishop's Warden after 2017; candidates must be confirmed or received in the Episcopal Church or members of the Lutheran Church, and at least 17 years old. The Bishop's Committee selects and recommends a warden candidate to the diocese for approval. There will be confirmation classes during Easter and Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce will celebrate the Eucharist on June 4 (Pentecost).
- 8) Rev. Pat gave a closing prayer and blessing of the Bishop's Committee.
- 9) The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Costello

Approved January 28, 2018