

Annual Meeting Minutes

Attendance: taken via clipboard

Presiding: Don Fleischman (priest-in-charge), Vince Katter (outgoing senior warden), Anne Burris (outgoing junior warden)

Location: St. Mark's nave (also streamed online)

Date: January 26, 2025

1. Welcome and Call to Order
 - a. Fr. Don called the meeting to order with prayer at 12:05pm.
2. Procedures and Eligibility for Voting
 - a. Have communed 3 times in the past year, have given a donation, and be at least 16 years of age
 - b. Required quorum is 20 members. Met and exceeded.
3. Approval of Minutes from January 2024 Annual Meeting
 - a. Sue Rohde moved to approve the minutes. Amy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Moved and seconded, to make John Johnson the clerk for the annual meeting. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Introduction and Election of Nominees for Office
 - a. Senior warden, 1 nomination: Judith Miller.
 - i. Elected by acclamation
 - b. Junior warden, 1 nomination: Leslie McCormick
 - i. Elected by acclamation
 - c. Vestry members: we are filling the normal 3 3-year terms and 1 1-year term to replace Judith Miller
 - i. Tom Piacentine, Amy Farkas, Alex Brill, Sandra Mclellan
 - ii. Elected by acclamation
5. Thank You to Outgoing Vestry Members
 - a. Outgoing vestry: Meg Boyd, Matt Norby, (Robert Gilbert resigned several months ago due to moving to Chicago)
 - b. Outgoing wardens: Vince Katter and Anne Burris
 - c. Judith Miller offered some reflections on the service provided by the wardens over the past year.
6. Election of Convention Deputies
 - a. Primary Deputies nominated: Anne Burris, John Johnson, Randy Miller
 - i. Elected by acclamation
 - b. Alternate Deputies: Marilyn Hamilton, Veronica Zahn, Daniella Goldfarb
 - i. Elected by acclamation
7. 2024 Year-End Financial Report and Presentation of the 2025 Operating Budget
 - a. Presented by outgoing treasurer Jason Shimko, his fifth year
 - b. We finished the year in the black for the second time since 2018.
 - c. Jason commended the parish for moving from a long series of negative operating budgets to a positive operating budget scenario. In particular, he observed that

realized pledges in 2024 did not fall below the original pledged amount, despite losing a priest.

- d. Fr. Don gave some remarks thanking Jason for his hard work, particularly over the last year during a clergy transition.
- e. Larry Boyd, the incoming treasurer, made some comments about moving into the role, appreciating Jason's past work, and the importance of successfully finishing the capital campaign.

8. Senior Warden's Report
 - a. Vince offered some reflections on the past year, including the work that went into "making church happen" every Sunday and the many service projects to the rest of the community. He particularly thanked Anne Burris for stepping forward into the junior warden role after it was left empty in the 2024 annual meeting.
9. Young Adult and Campus Ministry Report
 - a. Nate Irvine described his work with the 20s/30s group at St. Mark's, the Canterbury Fellowship at Marquette University, and with the ELCA Corner House ministry at UWM.
10. Ministry and Committee Reports (previously emailed) Ministry Minutes
 - a. Jane Shero, Garden Guild. She described their upcoming work to improve the landscaping and gardening around the building.
 - b. Sarah Marie Streed, Creation Care. She described two upcoming events for Earth Day and a Harvest Festival, as well as additional communication in the weekly newsletter.
 - c. Marilyn Hamilton, coffee hour. Marilyn requested that more people help out with hosting a simple coffee hour after the service.
 - d. Kelly Glostot, music director. She described opportunities to provide music for the service, whether singing in the choir or playing an instrument. She also encouraged folks to attend the monthly Be Still service.
 - e. Randy Kunkall, described a possible ministry in the making for a faith-based LGBTQI outreach group.
 - f. Mary Ross described the ushering ministry and invited anyone interested to sign up.
 - g. Kyle Potter described Common Ground's work improving public housing in Milwaukee. He invited members to share their concerns for justice in Milwaukee that could inform future campaigns.
 - h. Linda Cram described the work of the church making sandwiches, collecting diapers, winter clothing, etc. Next year, they want to continue making sandwiches for The Gathering; she asked people to keep an eye out for peanut butter on sale, out-of-season winter clothes, etc. The Crams will help store it for when it's needed. She also invited members to share ideas.
 - i. Meg Edwards, altar guild. She described the work of the altar guild and invited members to join and help.
 - j. Kathy Katter announced that she is passing the lay reader ministry over to Randy Kunkall and invited people to participate. She also announced that a celebratory dinner will be in the new hall on February 8th.

- k. Daniella Goldfarb described the adult education program. She invited members to share topics they're interested in and welcomed anyone who would like to teach a class.
- l. Amy described plans to offer both a nursery and Sunday school with volunteer opportunities.
- m. Donna Whittle described the work of the flower guild. She thanked the volunteers and everyone who donated to make the Christmas decorations possible.
- n. Sue Rohde described the work of the prayer team and invited anyone to participate.

11. An Offering of Gifts
 - a. Fr. Don invited members to list ministries they would like to participate on and then contribute them in an offering.
12. Closing Prayers and Adjournment
 - a. Fr. Don lead us in closing prayer at 1:05pm
13. Announcements
 - a. The Bishop will visit on May 18th for confirmations
 - b. Bishop Matt will also come to St. Mark's on the evening of Wednesday, March 12th for a celebration of ministry. This will be a good opportunity to invite the neighborhood.
 - c. Fellowship dinners will take place during the season of lent
14. Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm