Minutes of the 111th Annual Meeting

of

St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church

545 S East Ave

Oak Park, IL 60304

1. Call to Order
   * The meeting was called to order at 12:31 pm.
2. Appointment of Clerk, John Hillman, and Adoption of 111th Annual Meeting Minutes
   * Emily Culbertson moved that John Hillman be appointed Clerk for this annual meeting, Bob Wyatt seconded the motion, and the motion passed without opposition.
3. Interim Rector’s Report

* The Rev. Kevin M. Goodman delivered the Interim Rector’s Report.
* Kevin had served the parish since October 2021 and presumed that he would continue as the interim rector through Easter, if not longer.
* Kevin, the wardens, and the diocese all work for the next rector to make the transition successful.
* Kevin has been helping the parish deal with grief and loss over the previous rector’s departure and other issues.
* Kevin wants to stay in his role until a new rector is called, although there needs to be one month between Kevin’s departure and the new rector’s arrival.
* Kevin particularly acknowledged the following individuals: Jenn Urso, who clearly loves this church, Deb Maue for her partnership in carrying out the wardens’ duties, Pam Jacknow, Eva Pearson for her assistance in the financial area and for agreeing to remain on the finance committee, the stability of the staff; in particular, Richard Sobak, the Organist/Choirmaster, Jen Enriquez, Director of Children and Youth Formation, Christa Creps, Musician for Children and Families, Uziel Hernandez Martinez, Parish Administrator, and Bob Wyatt, Assisting Priest. About Bob, Kevin commented, “I did my best to keep him in line.”

1. Warden’s Report

* Jenn Urso delivered the Warden’s Report. She reviewed significant events during the year:
* The Pandemic
* The resignation of the rector
* The fact that stepping down is bittersweet.
* That we are in good hands with Deb Maue continuing and Mark Schneider moving into the warden positions
* And the people said “YES!”
* Jenn thanked Kelly Clissold for his web design work in relation to Stewardship: treasure/time/talent.
* She thanked the doctors in the parish for their work as “unpaid advisors.”
* She pointed out the following:
* The new rector will need people to say “yes.”
* Dan Tevelde commented: “Everyone needs a job and a friend.”
* Give yourself permission to say “yes”.
* Reflections at Vestry:
  + The glass is half empty or half full; we’re happy to have a glass!
  + When big things are out of control, think about the things right under your nose that you love!

1. Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members

* Jenn Urso, *senior warden*
* Pam Jacknow
* Katie Kearns, *resigned.*
* Eva Pearson

1. Elections
   * Nominations for Vestry
     + Paul Clark
     + Blaise Denton
     + Julie Dulski
     + Chloe White
     + Thomas Gary moved that the Vestry nominations be approved, Rich Nied seconded the motion, and the motion was approved without opposition.
   * Delegates to Diocesan Convention 2023
     + Deb Maue
     + Bill Pearson
     + Chloe White
   * Alternate to Diocesan Convention 2023
     + Heather West, *alternate*
     + Thomas Gary moved that the Delegate and Alternate nominations be approved, Emily Culbertson seconded the motion, and the motion was approved without opposition.
2. Reports
   * Search Committee
     + Emily Culbertson and Marilyn Heubel, Co-Chairs, reported in behalf of the Search Committee
     + They thanked Kelly Clissold for his work on the parish profile, which is expected to be completed any day now and posted on the parish website.
     + The Office of Transitional Ministry will coordinate the receipt of applications and the vetting of candidates,
     + Prayers will be offered each Sunday until the process is complete.
3. Finance Report and Budget
   * Marty Dunlavey presented the finance report and budget.
     + He announced a $65,000 deficit for the 2022 calendar year, not including search expenses.
     + The parish had 53 pledges for the year.
     + For 2023, 59 pledges have been received, and the projected deficit is $74,000.
     + The deficit must be funded *via* withdrawals from the endowment.
     + Two estate gifts were received in 2023.
     + Marty indicated the following:
       - Endowment Fund (discretionary) = $247,000
       - Housing Trust = $170,000
       - Capital reserve = $66,000
       - Music fund = $9,000
     + The envelope system has been retired in favor of direct payments.
   * Emily Culbertson thanked Marty, the Finance Committee, and the Vestry for their work.
   * Deb Maue announced that the projected budget deficit for 2023 is likely to be $110,000, although the stewardship campaign continues.
     + She thanked everyone for the new and increased pledges that have been received so far.
     + She also expressed the belief that the right candidate will see our challenges and will be excited to take these challenges on.
   * Peter Thompson reminded the group that donors (aged 70½ and older) should not overlook making contributions to the church directly from their IRA accounts. [Such contributions count toward their RMD’s but are then not reported as taxable income, which can result in substantial tax savings.]
   * Eileen Murphy commented that scripture indicates that where your treasure is, that’s where your heart is.
   * Rich Nied urged people to volunteer and to pledge in order to “help this place survive and thrive”.
   * Judy Marth commented: “I have never seen a community like this one!”
   * Thomas Gary moved that all reports be accepted, Johnathan White seconded the motion, and the motion passed without opposition.
4. Closing Prayer
   * Kevin Goodman offered the closing prayer.
5. Adjournment
   * Thomas Gary moved that the meeting be adjourned. And the people voted with their feet by departing in good cheer!