



Minutes of the Annual Meeting

January 26, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 by our Rector, Drew Van Culin, who also offered the opening prayers.

Opening Remarks: Father Drew offered some opening reflections for the community which included: acknowledgment that we are all on a spiritual journey. Father Drew shared a story that framed part of his spiritual journey which included a spiritual guide who called him on a joke he shared that was sprinkled with words that were not yet stricken from his vocabulary. This spiritual mentor listened quietly, and then offered a small suggestion that the joke would have been just as effective without all the cussing. Father Drew highlighted that this simple comment transformed his heart on that day – challenging him to re-shape all his life around the center of his life, Jesus the Christ. That is some of what we are working on here as a community. How we speak and treat each other with our words is powerful. As a community, we are learning together what it means to be not just a community but a Christian Community. We worked hard over the first two years after I arrived clarifying our roles and responsibilities in the community. It resulted in our Leadership for Mission structure introduced last year at the Annual Meeting. We began implementing that structure last spring.

While working on structure, clarification of roles and responsibilities, and culture we also have been focused on our finances. In 2013 when I arrived I asked a question around what financial resources do we have to build our ministry on. The Vestry turned the question to me: what do we need to sustain our vision. I set out to provide the staffing structure and resources needed to support the ministries of Christ Church. The number is approximately 2.5 million annually (which includes all expenses paid including those for capital improvements through the Conservation Trust, an annual choir trip, and other historically “off book” activities). The Vestry supported the sustaining vision for Christ Church and committed to investing three years up to 1 million dollars. You heard during the forums that we have a gap between our financial resources and our ministry needs. That gap is real; it is a pragmatic number we need to be aware of. But more importantly we have begun a journey that moves us from mere fundraising to meet a budget to giving from our heart – moving to spiritual Christian giving. God calls us to give a tenth – a tithe to the ministry. That is not a goal line that most Christians arrive at, and they do not arrive it overnight. It is a journey, it is a growth, but it is one that we all need to reflect on and then commit to reaching a tithe.

So, in the next year, we are focusing on Formation for all, not just our kids and youth. Everyone is invited to join the Catechumenate on Wednesday evening this spring as we read and discuss three books on Christian discipleship and community: Rowan Williams’ *Being Christian*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s *Life Together*, and Rowan Williams’ *Being Disciples*. The Vestry, too, will recommit itself to spiritual formation as we explore and practice what it means to be pilgrims in a Christian community. Another focus for the coming year will be our 9 a.m. family service. We will focus especially on those who are here and those who are on the periphery of our community as we reach out to the PDO families, our CNCC families, and other families in the Grosse Pointes and even beyond so that the grace of God and the care of this community are experienced by more.

Together we are on this journey and together we will learn how to move through the journey. Join us on Wednesday nights for formation about the discipleship journey and look forward to more information about the 9 a.m. service.

Appointment of Secretary: Father Van Culin appointed Mike Hix as Secretary of the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Approval of Minutes: Annual Meeting 2016

A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of these minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve these minutes. Both motions were approved.

Report by the Nominating Committee

Karen Kienbaum, Junior Warden, shared a high-level overview of the activities of the Nominating Committee highlighting the following points:

- In August Father Drew brought forth his recommendations to the Vestry for the nominating Committee.
- After dialogue and discussion, the Vestry approved in September expanding the nominating committee to be the full Vestry with five at large members.
- The committee began its work in September and started by clarifying our charge.
- Charge: to discern from our eligible membership those whom we believe are called to serve on the vestry now. The canonical requirements state:
 - Candidate's must be "**adult Communicants in good standing**" of Christ Church; that is, Communicants who for the previous year have been
 - Faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented,
 - Faithful in working
 - Faithful in praying
 - Faithful in giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God

As a lawyer, I can tell you that these can be read to mean different things to different people, and so the nominating committee further defined what these mean:

- **Faithful in Worship:** A member in good standing regularly and consistently participates in weekly corporate worship at Christ Church Grosse Pointe.
- **Faithful in Working:** A member in good standing is actively engaged in at least one (1) ministry at Christ Church; is reliable and responsible, and accountable
- **Faithful in Praying:** A member in good standing leads a life that reflects the life of prayer that is marked by openness, listening, kindness, respect and charity toward their neighbor.
- **Faithful in Giving:** A member in good standing has made a prayerful, sacrificial, annual, and unrestricted financial commitment (commonly called a "pledge") that reflects a movement toward a tithe to support the ministry of Christ at Christ Church Grosse Pointe.

Once we agreed on the criteria we set out to reviewing our membership. We vetted the membership, and there were 35 that we discerned were called to the Vestry this year. Of those 35 only 7 answered the call.

The Vestry and Rector recognize that two critical by-law requirements have not been met which include:

- Number of candidates to be presented is less than 10
- Candidates were not announced 40 days in advance - which we missed by one or two days.

We do need a long-term solution to the challenge we have on seating a Vestry. But it is where we are today. With that I will turn it over to David Gaskin.

The Chair recognized David Gaskin as Chancellor.

Temporary Amendment to By-laws

David Gaskin, Chancellor of Christ Church Grosse Pointe, introduced the required amendment which addresses the two components of the by-laws not met which will allow the vote to move forward. (See Attachment for amendment) The amendment was presented, Betsy Creedon moved to accept the amendment, and Amie Sweeney seconded the amendment.

The floor was opened to questions for clarification on the amendment.

- One member requested that the vote be done in secret ballot rather than by a show of green/red cards.

There were other comments offered from the floor but none that modified the motion.

Karyn Weir requested the question be called before all comments from the floor were heard. The motion was seconded by many, and placed to the community if the discussion should close and move to the motion at hand. The motion to close discussion was passed.

Father Drew and David Gaskin agreed to host the count by passing in your green/red card to the Tellers. The temporary By-Law modification was then called by Father Drew for a vote and the Tellers collected cards from the members. The tally was that 188 votes were cast: 151 Yea and 37 Nay. Vote required two-thirds (67%) for approval. The motion received 80% approval, greater than two-thirds and was approved.

Ministries Highlights (while waiting for the By-Laws vote to be returned)

Father Drew recognized all the ministries and activities at Christ Church and requested all involved in ministries to stand. At the end of this reading virtually everybody in Christ Church was standing. The chair then recognized Mark Lorenger for the introduction of Vestry Election:

Vestry Candidate Votes

Mark Lorenger then appointed Mary Trost as Head Teller, and introduced the seven candidates for this year's Vestry election:

- Eric Ash
- Lisa Baruah
- Richard Best
- Ann Eatherly
- Colleen Fitzgerald
- Thom Nealssohn
- Blair Osborn
- Helen Santiz
- Ed White

Mark reviewed the eligibility rules and requirements for voting, the ballots were marked and collected by the tellers who retired to do their tallies. A note of gratitude was shared that this year we have our youth serving as tellers.

Senior Warden Comments

Mark Lorenger shared his comments with the community. His Senior Warden Report is available in the Annual Report.

Ministries Highlights

Two outreach partners shared their appreciation and impact of Christ Church Gifts which included:

- Ms. Mary McLaren Honsel, Executive Director of Crossroads.
- Mr. Craig Leavitt, Executive Director of Crossover Downtown Outreach Ministries.

Treasurer Report

Ms. Amie Sweeney, Treasurer of Christ Church Grosse Pointe, started by sharing a reflection on her spiritual journey. Ms. Sweeney then moved on to outline the financials for fiscal year 2016 and a high-level overview of the budget for 2017. Ms. Sweeney highlighted the red reserve line in the presentation. This line she says represents the gap between what we have called Father Drew to create and what we as a community are NOT supporting. We own this line, and only we can fix it. Amie highlighted that we always have a balanced budget. The bills get paid one way or another. Either we support it through our giving or we pay the bills by using our reserved dollars. The Annual Giving committee encouraged us to look at our giving from a Spiritual Journey this year. To plan to reach a tithe, but very specifically to increase our giving this year by 1% of our annual household income. I personally answered that call, in fact I answered that call twice over. I challenge each of you to answer that call already as well. If we do not answer the call, we will have a different Church than what we have today.

The full financial report is available in the Annual Meeting Report.

Vestry Election Results

The following candidates were elected:

- Eric Ash
- Lisa Baruah
- Colleen Fitzgerald
- Thom Nealssohn
- Blair Osborn

Stewardship Journey Reflection

Ms. Betsy Creedon offered a personal testimony of her spiritual journey.

Recognition and Appreciations

Recognition and appreciation remarks of the outgoing Senior Warden, Mark Lorenger was offered by Karen Kienbaum, Junior Warden. Mark then gave his heartfelt thanks to outgoing Vestry Members and Treasurer, Amie Sweeney, Sandy Baruah, Scottie Knight, Lisa MacLean, and Donald Sweeny for their service to Christ Church as Vestry Members for the past three years.

Father Drew then recognized exemplary service by two parish members: Polly Ledyard, and Candy Sweeny.

Adjournment of Meeting

Father Drew thanked all nine members who had stood for election at this meeting.

A motion was then made and seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Father Drew offered closing prayers.

Respectfully submitted by,



Approved by:

Mike Hix

Diane E. Ward
Associate for Finance and Administration

Mike Hix
Secretary

Signature: 
Michael Hix (Apr 11, 2017)

Email: mike.a.hix@gmail.com