

## Minutes for Annual Meeting on November 19, 2023

**Chairpersons:** Fr. Andy Jones, Rector;  
Casey Reiser, Senior Warden.

**Parliamentarian:** Tim O'Shea

**Clerk:** Jeff Ocwieja

### **Agenda Items**

**Opening Prayer:** Given by Fr. Andy

**Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes:** **Christine moves to adopt. John Mullen seconds. Unanimously adopted.**

**Nominating Committee/Election:** There is a published report online. Single candidates for junior and senior wardens. Re vestry, were previously three candidates for three seats, but one had to withdraw. Since then, an additional candidate has stepped forward, but needs to be nominated on the floor. Each prospective nominee's info included in packet. Re diocesan convention, there was an approval to continue moving forward with uniting diocese. Previous convention delegates running again so there is continuity between the last convention and the upcoming convention. We need to elect for the special convention and the regular convention. No endowment committee candidates given pending resolution restructuring that committee. If the resolution to restructure that committee doesn't pass, we have two candidates and vestry will appoint the third.

Unless there is a floor nomination, we will elect by acclamation because there is currently only one candidate for each position.

Re senior warden: Casey only candidate. No floor nominations. **Elected by acclamation.**

Re junior warden: David only candidate. No floor nominations. **Elected by acclamation.**

Re vestry positions: John, Katie, and Eric have completed their terms. Electing for those three open positions. Ryan Brown and Anne Keller on ballot. Fr. Andy nominated David Johnson from the floor. Stephanie seconds. No additional floor nominations. **Ryan Brown, David Johnson, and Anne Keller elected by acclamation.**

Re convention delegates. Carolyn Chadderdon, Stephanie Elkins, Karen Evans-Romaine, Casey. No floor nominations. **Elected by acclamation.** Call additional question as to delegates serving at special convention as well. **Elected by acclamation.**

**Presentation of the State of the Parish:** Given by Fr. Andy. Previously in a "liminal" space. Coming back, not back to "normal" yet but seeing new patterns that allows us to move forward w/out fear of having the rug pulled out. In process of figuring out who we are/who we are called to be. Review of progress this past year. E.g., flower guild training event; regular gathering of altar & flower guilds for fellowship; coffee hour coming back; foyers has returned; "meet the artist" event. St. Andrews known for strength and depth of its community, people care about/like each other. Important given atrophy of our social 'muscles' following COVID and growing political polarization. Discussion of new mission statement. Discussion of service aspect of our mission. E.g., liaison structure w/ vestry; outreach in-gatherings, has given over \$34,000 to community initiatives; \$6,500 via discretion fund to community members in crisis. Discussion of vocation aspect of our mission. E.g., engaged paid section leaders for choir, reflects "centrality" of music to our mission. Discussion of "all our loved" aspect. E.g., nursery recently re-opened; hiring for a 20 hr/week job for youth & family services coordinator thanks to Janet Hyde's generous donation. Discussion

of average attendance, only slight difference in average attendance between 2022 and 2023. Smaller than we were previously. We should focus our attention on mission and growth for the coming year (in that order). Discussion of “mission” – bringing people together (restoring all people to unity) while creating a nourishing community. We need to tell people ‘why’ we do what we do/faith is an important aspect of our lives. St. Andrews is poised (and fiscally sound) for mission & growth.

Bylaws Update: Discussion by Casey. Summary of proposed changes in the packet. Biggest change is structuring of endowment committee. Restructuring will result in committee being staffed by other permanent positions w/ opportunities for parish members to be appointed when the need arises. Trying to simplify the process.

Sherrie discusses application process for endowment, encourages people to apply for money. Casey adds the vestry liaisons can help develop grant requests. Casey explains that bylaws revision was assisted by an attorney retained by St. Andrews.

Explanation of voting process by Fr. Andy. Question called. Ayes: 50. Nays: 0. **Unanimously adopted.**

Newell House Conversation: Discussion by David. See report. Did an overall assessment, realized there were some safety issues. Currently no programming activities occurring at the house. Discussion of costs of remediating issues. Discussion of “listening sessions” and feedback from those meetings. Fairly consistent (although not completely unanimous) theme that building itself should be razed but we should keep the property. Vestry directed creation of new committee to investigate what it will take to clear the property and what to do w/ it next. Discussion of “visioning” the property.

Donna asks what city of Madison has to say about this. David clarifies that we are working with the city, “premature” to say what the city will say until we’ve prepared a plan, are certain requirements because it’s in a “historical district.” Suzanne asks about other groups who use the building and whether we have short-term accommodation plan for them. David discusses groups that have used the space (e.g., AA), we are accommodating them in the parish hall instead. Anne asks if we can consider parking spaces. David clarifies that the new committee’s role is to “vision” the property (including, e.g., parking).

Casey continues presentation re visioning. Discussion of handout provided before today’s meeting. Want to be very inclusive and bring together ideas from entire parish. There have been discussions of making sure however the space is used, that it be “accessible.”

Barb suggests we need to talk to the city first re constraints before visioning ideas. Casey clarifies that we have had some preliminary discussions w/ the city, we want to vision and have talks with the city simultaneously. David explains that there are many different people throughout the city government whom we need to talk to- not a singular body. Casey further clarifies that we need a ‘plan’ before going to the city (doesn’t have to be detailed, but does need to be a basic ‘vision’). Question of whether there is precedent for how historical buildings have been dealt with in the past. David says we don’t have anything specific, but anecdotally the city has allowed replacement. Larry asks if there were any legal restrictions from when the building was originally deeded to the parish. Fr. Andy clarifies that per vestry records, parish actually bought the building and former rector paid off the loan (so, as far as we can tell, parish fully owns the property).

## Reports

Annual Stewardship Campaign Update  
Endowment Committee  
Columbarium Trustees  
Junior Warden  
Outreach Giving Update

## Financial Reports:

2022 End-of-Year Budget  
2023 Year to Date  
Highlights of 2024 Draft Budget

Discussion by Kevin. See attached reports. Parish financials are “sound.” Discussion of high level finance changes. Changed accounting firm (i.e. “Mission Accounting.”). Also transition to new accounting software. Top to bottom review of accounting structure, very grateful for assistance from the diocese. Discussion of balance sheet. Discussion of increased assets and total equity. Discussion of how we have at least 3 months of cash reserves, \$233,000 cash reserves (which is more than 3 months- i.e., excess \$109,000- i.e., very safe financial position). Discussion of revenue and expenditures from 2022. Ended w/ net revenue in 2022 of \$80,000. For 2023, net revenue \$40,000 (as of 09/30/23). Expected net revenue of \$76,000 by year end 2023. Discussion of “proposed” draft 2024 budget. Very speculative right now. Finance Committee will continue making changes as we approach end of the year. Clarification that no budging re Newell House because still working on plan. Will be revised once there’s a plan.

Plan on approving the finalized budget in January 2024 vestry meeting.

Closing Prayer:

Given by Fr. Andy