

**St. George's Episcopal Church**  
**Annual Meeting**  
**February 28, 2021 Minutes**

**Present:** Kay Adams, Nancy Bird, Seawan Gehlbach, Jessica Hopkins, Lynn Hopkins, Kris Kokborg, Barclay Kopchak, Rich Rogers, Dustin Solberg, Cece Wiese, and Reverend Belle Mickelson. Barclay served as recorder. Joy Rawlins joined the meeting mid-way through.

The meeting began at 10:55 via Zoom with an opening prayer by Belle.

**Approval of Agenda for February 28, 2021:**

**Motion:** Nancy moved, and Cece seconded, a motion **to approve the Agenda for February 28, 2021.** **The motion carried unanimously.**

**Approval of Minutes of Annual Meeting held March 1, 2020:**

**Motion:** Nancy moved, and Barclay seconded, a motion **to approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held March 1, 2020.** **The motion carried unanimously.**

**Clergy Report:** Reverend Belle shared her enumerated list of 2020 activities. All were amazed at the extent of this pandemic year's accomplishments. Attendance averaged almost 14 people per service despite covid protocol limitations. Belle hailed all those who have helped to keep the church going in these difficult days and the continuing financial contributions that have maintained the church on an even keel. She was able to secure \$100,000 in grant funding for Dancing with the Spirit. This allowed her to organize an online curriculum with videos and music and buy instruments for young village musicians. Morning Music Leader Kim Menster organized the transfer of 4H instruments to St. George's and checked them out to interested students to keep the music going.

Belle was hopeful that some summer youth activities could be held: a small, localized 4H Music Camp and perhaps a small Gospel Music Camp. She reported that Matt Rush had expressed interest in running a Recovery Sunday program once covid restrictions are lifted.

The assembled parishioners offered kudos to Belle for persisting in this difficult time and accomplishing so much. Hats off to Reverend Belle!

(See written Clergy Report for more 2020 details.)

**2020 Financial Report/2021 Proposed Budget:** Kay Adams presented the 2020 Financial Report & 2021 Proposed Budget which parishioners reviewed. Vestry members thanked Kay for her continuing financial guidance. Vestry's only change to the Proposed Budget was to divert \$250 from Savings to a Youth Activities account.

**Acceptance of 2020 Financial Statement and Approval of 2021 Proposed Budget:**

**Motion:** Nancy moved, & Cece seconded, a motion to accept the 2020 Financial Statement and to approve the 2021 Proposed Budget.

**The motion carried unanimously.**

**Nominations and Election of Vestry Members:** The 2018-2/2021 terms ended for Vestry members Dustin Solberg and Kris Kokborg/Lynn Hopkins. Acknowledging the inevitable Dustin, Kris, and Lynn dutifully agreed to offer their vestry expertise. Deb and Chip Ethier's shared seat expired in 2020 and also need to be filled.

**Motion:** Nancy nominated the disentangled Kris Kokborg and Lynn Hopkins duo so that each might serve on the Vestry for three years (2021–2/2024) and for Dustin Solberg to fill out remainder of the Ethiers' term (2020-2/2024) **The Slate was gratefully and cheerfully welcomed back on board.**

Vestry Members' terms:

Barclay Kopchak 2019 term expires 2/2022

Cece Wiese 2019 term expires 2/2022

Seawan Gehlbach/Joy Rawlins 2020 term expires 2/2023

Dustin Solberg 2020 term expires 2/2023

Cristina Vican 2020 term expires 2/2023

Lynn Hopkins/Kris Kokborg 2021 term expires 2/2024

**Church Building Updates:**

Nancy Bird reviewed the bullet points from the written update on the status of the church roof plans, grant requests in progress, and fundraising needs that she provided. (See Nancy Bird Update) Finding a local contractor has been a futile exercise, an outside contractor may be necessary. Nancy estimated the roof will cost \$100,000. A \$50,000 funding gap required filling with parishioners needing to raise \$25,000. Fundraising ideas were discussed.

Nancy also described her continuing efforts to update the church websites and invited people to send her photos of St George's activities and facilities. Vestry members suggested that Nancy add a donation portal to both the church's and the Red Dragon websites.

All expressed their thanks for Nancy's commitment to St. George's and its historic buildings.

- ▶ Barclay offered to organize a Rummage Sale once restrictions are lifted
- ▶ Belle suggested combining the Rummage Sale with a plant sale.
- ▶ Kay offered to donate and solicit prizes for a raffle (on-line or off).
- ▶ Dustin suggested a snail mail St George's Alumni campaign (Kay added that an offer to match any mailed contributions might increase giving.)

- ▶ Nancy said she would forward a donation request letter to Dustin for further wordsmithing.
- ▶ Belle suggested a 'Buy a Shingle' campaign.
- ▶ Jessica Hopkins volunteered to communicate with large churches to which she has connections regarding their interest in helping put a roof on little old St. George's.
- ▶ Seawan volunteered to investigate manufacturing St. George stickers for sale or donation swag.

### **Gardening:**

Seawan was interested in the status of the church garden project. It was pointed out that the plans to rent garden space to folks fell flat because the church does not actually own the land at the intersection of Second Ave. and the Copper River Highway. (Oops) Dustin described plans for a 'chaos gardens' to be sown in the land below the church which amidst the salmonberry bushes that may produce a small harvest.

- ▶ Dustin offered to talk with Ann and the Bowmans regarding their gardening plans, if any.

### **Final Thoughts:**

Easter: All agreed that any special activities for Easter (April 4) would depend upon covid protocols, i.e., spontaneously generated.

Youth Activities: Lynn spoke to the need to focus on youth in the year ahead.

Seminary On-line: Belle reminded everyone that she is one year past retirement and it's important that we raise up new leaders. She described the opportunity for interested folks to attend seminary on-line at no cost. Jessica asked that information regarding same be sent along to her via Lynn.

Seawan expressed how thankful she was in this pandemic year for our spiritual family. Amen!

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by Belle and an expedient sigh (*end before noon!*) at 11:58 a.m.