

**St. Paul's Church in Brookline
Minutes of Annual Meeting
January 11, 2009**

The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church was held on Sunday, January 11, 2009 with about 60 people in attendance.

At 11:30am Junior Warden Steve Kelley announced that the meeting had the minimum quorum of 25 people in attendance. Senior Warden Andrea Brue then called the meeting to order.

1. Interim Rector Terry McCall announced that she is now responsible for scheduling and asked people to sign up for chalice, lectors, acolytes, etc. at the end of the meeting.
2. *It was moved to accept the minutes from 2008. This was voted and approved.*
3. Nominations for Officers, Members of the Vestry, and Delegates were identified in the Annual Meeting Report, voted on and approved as follows:
 - Vestry—Three Year term:** Madeleine Taylor, Liz deSelm, Ginny Holmes-Wilcox
 - And for the following one year positions (they may succeed themselves):
 - Treasurer:** Beverly Estes-Smargiassi
 - Clerk:** Ben Norton
 - Historian:** Patricia Dunbar
 - Delegates to Diocesan Convention:**
Leah Rugen & Sarah Thiemann; Jean Moses & Molly Lanzarotta as alternatives
 - Delegates to the Charles River Deanery:**
Sharlene Wing & Maria O'Meara
 - Delegates to the Episcopal City Mission:**
Beverly Estes-Smargiassi and Tim Smith
4. Steve Kelley explained that per church bylaws, the annual meeting appoints a new rector, unless it authorizes the Vestry to do so. As St. Paul's will most likely be finalizing the selection for a new rector during the spring/summer of 2009, *a motion to authorize the Vestry to appoint a new rector was moved, seconded, and approved.*
5. Andrea Brue said that 2008 was a year of challenges for St. Paul's and that the Vestry worked very hard to make some difficult decisions. She said that committee leaders for the Search, Finance, and Building committees would each be updating the parish on what happened during 2008 at the meeting. Reports for all committees could be found in the distributed annual reports as well as on the church website.

6. Search Committee Report- presented by Steve Estes-Smargiassi

Steve E.-S. said that the Search process started with a good-bye party for retiring Rector George Chapman.

Steve E.-S. read aloud a moving letter from previous Asst. Rector Pam Werntz to St. Paul's that explains why she has withdrawn her name from consideration as St. Paul's new Rector. Although she loves and misses us, she has prayerfully considered where she should be and has decided to continue her work as Rector at Emmanuel church.

Steve E.-S. explained that a single name will be recommended to the Vestry in late spring/ early summer with the goal that the new Rector will begin work in September.

Linda Hasting suggested we pray for our future rector at the prayers for the people and for our discernment of that person.

Kate Kelley mentioned that the joint Vestry/Search Comm. retreat last spring was particularly helpful. Maria O'Meara mentioned that Sarah Thiemann made the point to her of the geographic diversity of the candidates. A parishioner noted that Sue Ardizzoni's name was not listed as a member of this committee; Steve ES will make sure it gets added to the report for the record.

Concern was expressed if the new Rector chose not to live in the newly renovated Rector's unit and then the church would need to pay for a housing allowance. The Search Committee explained that their 1st preference for a new rector will be a candidate who will want to live there. It will be the rector's choice as to which unit they will want to occupy.

Steve Kelley thanked the Search Committee for their hard work.

7. Finance Committee Report- presented by Steve Kelley

Steve K. reported that the financial crash has affected the nation as a whole and our endowment has gone down by 1/3. He explained that income from the endowment is used to pay for parish programs. In 2008 it paid for 45% of all parish spending, more than all pledge contributions from parishioners.

While the majority of funding for renovations is coming from the Capital Appeal, the plan had been to contribute about \$500,000 from the endowment. The reduction of the endowment due to the stock market has meant that the original budget of \$1.45 million for parish house & rectory renovations had to be reduced to \$1.1 million.

Since the endowment is generating less money, the Vestry had to vote to cut operating costs by 17%. This meant the parish secretary position had to be eliminated and we reduced sextons from 2 to 1. The Vestry also eliminated paid childcare for the 9am and

11am services. Volunteer childcare will be organized by Liz DeSelm. In addition, the music budget was cut by 1/3 and funding for M.O.P. was cut by 50%.

Steve K. continued to explain that the cuts made to M.O.P. are not intended to be long term. Part of this year's reduction results from for overspending in years past and it is expected that its funding would be eventually restored to 10% of the parish budget.

A question was asked about letting the parish administrator go and how that would affect the church while we are in the middle of a search for a new rector. Andrea answered that a new position will be created with reduced hours and that the new rector will have the opportunity to assist in the hiring.

For the 2009 budget, pledges are expected to pay about 46% of the church's operating expenses—more than the amount from the endowment for the first time in many years. It was suggested that the church could improve the amount of pledges in the future by providing guidelines for how much to give. Additional funding will come from rental of the new unit created from the Rectory renovations.

Andrea explained that St. Paul's has been drawing down at 6.5 % to 8% of the endowment for a while. For 2009, the Finance Committee has brought the number down to 5%. A question was asked regarding how the Vestry determined that St. Paul's should be sticking to a 4.5 % draw on the endowment. Steve Estes-Smargiassi clarified that most non-profits use 4.5% to 5.5% as a rule of thumb for use of an endowment as this percentage typically allows for balanced draw downs and growth.

It is hoped that the new Rector will revitalize the church and draw in new members. Andrea reminded all, however, that this is a responsibility we all need to share.

8. Capital Appeal Report- presented by Betsy Munzer

Betsy announced that to date, St. Paul's has pledges of \$560,000 for the Capital Appeal and has received \$260,000 so far. She explained that the amount is less than previously announced due to the fact that money expected from the Eleanor Konnecy estate is still unknown. Betsy concluded by saying, "We are going forward in faith. We are counting on you to give what you have pledged and to give more than that if possible to cover those who may have to give less."

9. Building Committee Summary- presented by Jim Batchelor

Jim Batchelor explained that because of the reduced budget of \$1.1 million, the scope of renovations previously presented in coffee hour and other discussions had to be scaled back. While the Building Committee reviewed costs for both the Rectory and the Parish House, it became apparent that more savings could be had in the Parish House. The goal was to look at what can be done without changing the walls. This means that changes to the great hall, choir room, kitchen and middle room will all happen within their existing walls.

Improvements include a new wall finish for the great hall, bleachers removed and new storage in the choir room, and storage upgrades for the kitchen and middle room (including the food pantry). It is hoped that we will have enough money to make the men's room handicap accessible. Other building improvements include new storm windows, and upgrade electrical and fire alarm systems. A high priority is improvements to the Sunday school rooms.

Jim Batchelor further explained that during construction, we will have access to the rector's office, bathrooms, and Lichtenberger room for most of the time. Sunday school will move to the rectory for about six weeks.

Noting the coldness of the room, Lorraine Baugh asked if anything is going to be done to the Parish House heating system. Jim said the boiler had stopped working this morning because a 75 cent part failed. The part will be replaced but we will have to live with the existing heating system for now given our renovation budget.

Steve Estes-Smargiassi stated that he feels positive about the plan for renovations, even in this time of bad financial news. Several in attendance seconded this theme.

10. Other Business

Andrea referred everyone to the full committee reports that were handed out and would also be made available on the church website, thanks to Steve Kelley's hard work.

Andy Clarkson spoke about how heartening it has been for him to see how we have embraced the difficulties we currently face as a church and yet still look to the positives. He reminded all of the bible passage that says "Be not afraid". Everyone responded with a loud "Amen".

11. Closing Remarks

Andrea asked us all to take a moment to reflect on the following vision:

"Picture St. Paul's one year from today:

The children head downstairs to church school where they are met by new members in their class. They are sitting in newly renovated classrooms with fresh air. Adults are visiting in the Lichtenberger room chatting with the new rector while others are talking with the new tenant at 131 Aspinwall about how great it is to live in Brookline. Others are meeting about MOP in the warm and inviting Great Hall, admiring the fresh coat of plaster and paint and shiny refinished wood floor. As the hospitality crew is in the kitchen putting dishes away in the clean, refurbished cabinets, they listen to the beautiful sounds coming from the Choir Room. The choir is singing especially well now that the bleachers and vacuum cleaners have been given proper homes. Volunteers for the Food Pantry are busy putting away food donations with ease in the modern and organized new storage systems. "

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12. As the last order of business, Courtesy Resolutions were passed with the addition of Kendall Gray for her dedication in helping the Hospitality Committee and assisting the young Acolytes.
13. A closing prayer was led by Interim Rector Terry McCall.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Sampson, stand-in for Ben Norton, Clerk