Minutes of the 112th Annual Meeting

of

St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church

545 S East Ave

Oak Park, IL 60304

1. Call to Order
   * Rev. George Arceneaux IV called the 112th Annual Meeting to order at 11:28 am.
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, Wendy Norris seconded the motion, and the motion was approved without opposition.
   * Emily also noted for the group, just prior to the conclusion of the meeting, that the minutes of the 111th Annual Meeting had not been approved. Emily moved that those minutes be approved, Chloe White seconded the motion, and the motion was approved without opposition.
3. Rector’s Report

* The Rev. George Arsenault IV delivered the Rector’s Report.
* George cautioned all in attendance that he would not attempt to cover everything in his four-page printed report.
* Instead, George directed everyone to page 11 of the annual report, which presents a graphic illustration of St. Christopher’s challenge to create “a sense of community that expands beyond the confines of each service time and communities that meet at each space.”
* George will be working diligently to remove barriers among parishioners participating in these three distinct services.
  + St. Christopher’s Café on the first Sunday each month has fostered meaningful interactions among attendees of the three services.
  + The Advent Craft Night, open to all, offers additional interaction.
  + There will be a Mardi Gras party this year.
  + The chili cookoff will return.
  + There may even be a Taylor Swift event!
* One of the challenges will be continuing development of each of the three services to make all parishioners feel welcome at any of the services.

1. Warden’s Report

* Deb Maue delivered the Warden’s Report.
* Deb reminded all of us of her recent history on the Vestry:
  + Six years ago, she agreed to serve on the Vestry for a three-year term.
  + However, the previous rector resigned, an interim needed to be hired, Linda Bolte moved away, and she was asked to be part of the Search Committee.
  + Therefore, three years became six.
* At last year’s annual meeting, there was a projected deficit of over $70,000.
  + Generosity on the part of donors and some luck resulted in a very small deficit.
  + The budget for 2024 still contains a deficit, but much smaller than last year’s deficit.
* Deb highlighted a few notable developments of 2023:
  + St. Christopher’s Café. A thank you to Paul Clark and all others involved.
  + The increased use of name tags.
  + The meal program initiated by Blaise Denton.
* Deb thanked:
  + Kevin Goodman for his contributions to St. Christopher’s as interim rector.
  + Christa Creps and Richard Sobak for their contributions to St. Christopher’s music programs.
* Deb also acknowledged George as the right person at the right time to become our current rector.

1. Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members
   * George recognized the following retiring Vestry Members and thanked them for their service:
     + Deb Maue, *senior warden*
     + Peter Curtin
     + Thomas Gary
     + Gretchen Straw
2. Elections
   * Gretchen Straw moved that the Nominations for Junior Warden and Vestry members be approved, Jill Gimesky seconded the motion, and the motion passed without opposition.
   * Those elected are:
     + Emily Culbertson, *Junior Warden*
     + Howie Anderson, 3 Year Term
     + David Langert, 3 Year Term
     + Jack Cosbey, 3 Year Term
     + Stephanie Krajewski, 1 Year Term
3. Finance Report and Budget
   * Mark Schneider, *Junior Warden* and Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the finance report and budget.
     + He announced that the 2023 calendar year finished with a $5,000 deficit.
       - $16,000 more than budgeted was received in giving.
       - The Search Committee spent $60,000 less than budgeted.
       - There were additional savings in health and life insurance expenditures.
       - The open Children’s Formation position also resulted in savings.
     + The checking account at the beginning of calendar year 2023 was almost completely drained; that account has a reasonably large balance now. $60,000 was transferred from the investment account into the checking account during the year, but further transfers do not appear to be needed over the next several months.
     + Despite the drawdown of the investment account, the balance in the account at the end of 2023 was largely unchanged from the beginning of the year due to the market rally toward the end of the year.
     + For the 2024 year, the parish so far has received 60 pledges, amounting to more than a $10,000 increase in anticipated pledge income.
     + Based on conservative planning, the 2024 budget projects a $42,000 deficit
   * Mark Schneider thanked Johnathan White for assuming the position of Treasurer of St. Christopher’s
     + He also thanked Marty Dunlavey, our former Treasurer, and Johnathan for all of their work in the handling of the transition to a new Treasurer.
   * Thomas Gary moved that the Finance Report be approved, Rich Nied seconded the motion, and the motion passed without opposition.
4. Closing Prayer
   * George offered the closing prayer.
5. Adjournment
   * The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 pm.