

**Annual Parish Meeting
St James' Episcopal Church
Glastonbury, CT 06033
January 29, 2023**

The Meeting Convened at 11:15 AM

Opening Prayer: Rev Donald Hamer

Brunch: Thank you, Jeannette Brown, Pat Goodrich, and crew,

Welcome: Senior Warden Deb O'Donnell

Determination of a Quorum: 53 Members were in Attendance.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting January 26, 2022:

Motion to accept the minutes was made, second. The meeting minutes were accepted and unanimously approved by those in attendance.

Introduction of the Current Vestry:

Alison Banker, Rich Connell, Don Gardner, Becky Lee, Ralph Urban
Thank you to Rich Connell and Becky Lee for your service.

Introduction and Election of New Vestry Members:

Susan Wright

Marie Dixon

Mitch Chester

Ralph Urban made a motion to accept the new Vestry members as proposed; the motion was seconded and accepted unanimously by the membership present.

Commissioning of Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Vestry, Treasurer and Clerk:

Senior Warden: Deb O'Donnell

Junior Warden: Don Gardner

Treasurer: Bob Dugger

Clerk: Cheryl Turner

Vestry: Mitch Chester

Vestry: Ralph Urban

Vestry: Alison Banker

New Vestry: Susan Wright

New Vestry: Marie Dixon

Congregation: “The Lord gives wisdom. From his mouth comes knowledge and understanding. He stores up sound wisdom for the upright. He is a shield to those who walk in integrity.”

Wardens, Vestry, Treasurer and Clerk: “I am your servant; grant me understanding that I may know your decrees.”

Prayer: Rev Donald Hamer “Let us Pray Together”

“O Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage. Enlighten your grace the Officers and Vestry of this congregation and so rule their minds and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your church, Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Senior Warden: “In the name of God and the congregation, I commission our Wardens, Members of the Vestry, Treasurer, and the Clerk of St James’ church”

Commissioning of Delegates to the ECCT Convention: Dan Aramini and Becky Lee

Congregation: “Govern and Uphold them, now and always.”

Prayer:

Senior Warden: “In the name of God and of this congregation, I commission you, Dan Aramini and Becky Lee, Delegates to the ECCT Convention

Action Items:

Proposed changes to the Bylaws:

#1, Section 1 a (age change 16 years old to 18 years old

#2, Section 3 (Warning to Notice)

#3 & #5 (wording for Rector to include senior warden or ... who chairs Vestry Meetings, “Priest/Priest-in-charge/Rector or his/her designee”

Gail Lebert made a motion to accept the By-Law changes as proposed, seconded by Susan Wright, and accepted unanimously by the membership present.

Treasurer’s Report: Bob Dugger

Thank you to the Finance Committee

The Treasure’s Report that has been distributed for this meeting reflects a balanced budget for 2023.

Don Gardner: “It is difficult to plan this transitional year, question of Rector’s salary and question of the cost of utilities.”

Bob Dugger: Pledges are significantly down from last year, 2022.

We made expenses in 2022 without tapping into the endowment account which will be necessary in 2023.

Ralph Urban: “we are an ongoing Christian Community. A Rector does not make us an active community, we do.”

Becky Lee: “I am hoping that the 2023 Budget reflects a missional model.”

Bob Dugger: “Yes, it is important for us to hear from liaisons and chairs of all missions as to what you need to support your mission work.”

Becky Lee: “Our focus needs to be on what God is calling St James to do in our community to care for others.’

Rich James: “What is the percentage of pledges and budgeted revenue down from last year?”

Bob Dugger: 2022: Budgeted pledges: 232,000 (Actual Received: 234,000)

2023: Budgeted pledges: 210,000

Bob Dugger: We are stable financially going into the new year, the variable is the utility costs”

Joining Jesus Funds: prioritized renovation to our antiquated heating system

Ed Crow: “we need to canvas every member individually regarding stewardship”

Whole Foods Parking Lot Contract: \$3500/Month

A motion was made by Bob Dugger to accept a three-year extension of the Whole Foods contract at \$3500 per month, with a condition that permits us to notify Whole Foods of a special service that would permit no parking during the service. Don Gardner seconded the motion. The membership unanimously accepted the motion as stated.

Senior Warden’s Comments: Deb O’Donnell

Deb acknowledged the quality of the Annual Reports and their reflection of how much we accomplish at St James.

Ed Crow made a comment: “The Annual Reports were great and maybe the best we have ever done.” Gail Lebert was given the credit for the quality of the reports.

Deb: 2022 was a year of accomplishments achieved through the outstanding leadership by the members of St James’ We read and completed the book, *Part Time is Enough* (McDonald, 2020) as we prepare for a part-time Priest-in-Charge, hopefully this spring, 2023.

May 1st, 2022 was our first all parish meeting; June 5, 2022 Denise Cabana left St James as our full-time rector. We continued as a parish with Christian Formation, thank -you to the Altar Guild and the Flower Guild for their tireless ministry. Following Denise’s departure, we held services and communion during the summer with Rev Don Hamer and Supply clergy.

During the fall of 2022 we learned to fly on our own as we revised the Commission Structure. In January, January 15, 2023, we embraced the Missional Church Model with an overwhelming positive response from our congregation.

We were visited by Bishop Laura. Bishop Laura highlighted our choir, and our lay assistants, following her message to the congregation. She entertained individual questions from parishioners during coffee hour.

She concluded that St James is positioned well with our lay leadership to succeed in our mission. She then offered her support to us and her prayers.

We continued our work and the mission of St. James with 3-staff and our wonderful volunteers through the remainder of 2022.

On January 18, 2023, our Vestry was trained by ECCT on how to interview prospective clergy.

The meeting was adjourned: 12:26 PM

Closing Prayer: Rev Donald Hamer

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Turner – Clerk