

Summary of Annual Meeting Events

Because we had an extraordinary Annual Meeting this year, we thought it was important to provide information as quickly as possible for those who were not able to attend. This document attempts to capture the order of the meeting as well as the important events as noted by the Clerk of the Meeting, Janet Kern. Please note: these are not official minutes of the meeting, but a good faith attempt to inform the wider parish of critical events in our parish life as we begin a period of transition.

Annual Meeting was held in the context of a worship service and began in the Great Hall with the Liturgy of the Word.

I. Prayer

A Singing Bowl called us into silent prayer; the Collect of the Day was read; The Gospel was read by Rev. Ted Gaiser.

II. Appointments

Janet Kern was appointed Clerk of the Meeting. The Rev. Ted Gaiser was appointed Parliamentarian of the Meeting.

III. Rector's Comments

The rector, The Rev. Tricia de Beer, read her comments in lieu of a Rector's Report. Full text of comments can be found as an attachment at the end of this document.

The rector then handed the gavel to Sr. Warden, Mary Ucci to conduct the business portion of the meeting.

IV. Business Meeting

Mary acknowledged that this Annual Meeting would be difficult for all involved and asked that we support each other in prayer.

V. Approval of Minutes

The 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved with one amendment.

VI. Acknowledgements

Mary acknowledged the outgoing and continuing vestry members from 2008. Meeting further honored members with a standing ovation.

VII. Nominations

Nominating Committee Chair, Sam Stevens, gave the committee report and read the slate of nominees for 2009 Vestry, Deanery and Endowment Committee.

Opportunity was given for nominations for vestry from the floor; none were made.

VII. Vestry Election

A motion was made and seconded for the clerk to cast a single ballot in favor of the 2009 Vestry slate.

Discussion

A member asked whether the slate could be split with a vote at another time for part of the slate. The parliamentarian answered that it could not, because our by-laws call for the election of officers at our Annual Meeting.

Following another member's voicing support of the Nominating Committee's work and the Slate, the same member asked the meeting to consider the particular position of Sr. Warden on the slate, and urged for a vote against the slate due to this warden's involvement in the events leading to the rector's resignation. The member also expressed concern that the congregation had not been appropriately informed of the ongoing issues with the rector, and held the wardens responsible for this.

Further discussion by other members expressed the following:

- That the by-laws do not require notification of the congregation of such matters by the vestry.
- That there was a moral obligation to inform the congregation, even if the by-laws don't require it.
- Whether the by-laws could be amended (and the procedure for doing so) to require notification of such matters in the future.
- Whether it is the rector or the vestry who is responsible for leading the parish in a particular direction.
- The importance of continuity of leadership on the vestry
- The concern of a relative newcomer to the parish whose family has come to the parish because they like the rector, and who has difficulty supporting the slate under these circumstances.

Although several more members indicated they wished to speak, a motion was made and seconded to close the discussion. A hand vote was taken resulting in a simple majority in favor of the motion. A question as to whether a 2/3 majority vote was required and the parliamentarian indicated that only a simple majority was required. Discussion was closed.

A paper ballot was requested to vote on the motion. The paper ballot results were taken and counted. The motion passed 57 to 35 with 8 abstentions, and the vestry slate was elected.

Gavel was passed to new Sr. Warden, Connie Parrish to conduct the remainder of the meeting's business

VIII. Acknowledgement

Mary Ucci's 3 years of service as Sr. Warden was acknowledged and the parish was informed that there would be an appropriate celebration at a future date.

IX. Endowment Committee election

Tom Swithenbank was elected as the new member of the Endowment Committee.

X. Deanery Representatives election

The slate of Deanery Reps as nominated by the Nominating Committee was elected

XI. Additional help for Treasurer

Additional help for our new Treasurer, Dinesh Dulipsingh, was announced: Suresh Reginald and Jim Neumann – pending vestry approval.

X. Nominating Committee election

A new nominating committee was elected by paper ballot:

Jessie Maeck, Julia Francis, Ian Fox, Frank Kern, Chris Needham with alternate Murray Daniels.

XI. Property Committee presentation

Peter Koso thanked all the members of the property committee and announced the donation of a memorial garden bench by the committee in memory of longtime committee member, John Ayvazian. This news was received with a standing ovation.

Peter also announced that there was a hope to refurbish the steeple this year.

XII. Treasurer's Report and Budget Summary

Jim Neumann gave a verbal and visual presentation of the state of church finances and plans reflected in the budget approved by the vestry on March 18. Unfortunately, the parish had a large budget deficit in 2008, and is facing another large deficit in 2009.

A written version of the report had been distributed prior to the meeting and was also contained in the service booklet for the meeting. Copies continue to be available on our website

XIII. Acknowledgements and Presentations

Jessie Maeck gave a warm and heartfelt tribute to the rector, The Rev. Tricia de Beer. She thanked Tricia for her hospitality, color, drama and the spirit of play that she brought to Redeemer and encouraged in others during her tenure.

Peg Wright followed with another warm tribute, and finished with a hands-on blessing for Tricia.

Jessie's and Peg's words were each met with standing ovations.

Jessie presented Tricia with gifts from the parish: flowers, a photo collage, a copy of the 2008 Redeemer slideshow, artwork and cards from children, a wooden finger labyrinth and a purse containing contributions from over 30 parishioners.

Tricia in turn gave the parish a gift of the prayer stones that had been given to her when she came to the parish, with a lit candle in the center, representing the Light of Christ. Full text of her comments can be found in an attachment at the end of this document.

XIII. J2A Announcement

Katherine Mirani thanked the parish for their continued support of the J2A group and announced another fundraiser for J2A (their last!) : selling compact fluorescent light bulbs for 100% profit. She also commented on the Annual Meeting, and noted that we had just made it through a really tough meeting, and that means that we'll be able to get through anything. Her comments were received with a standing ovation.

XIV. Prayers and Memoriam

Prayers of the People were said and the list of those in our parish who had passed away in 2008 was read.

XV. Confession and Peace

After saying the Confession and exchanging the Peace, members moved to the sanctuary for the Liturgy of the Table and Communion

XVI. Communion

Communion was celebrated by The Rev. Tricia de Beer.

XVII. Adjournment

After a post-communion prayer, the meeting was adjourned by Connie Parrish.

Brunch and the 2008 Slideshow followed the Annual Meeting.

Attachments to Annual Meeting Summary Church of Our Redeemer – 3/29/09

Rector's Comments

“The rector’s address is meant to be a time of acknowledging the blessings of the year past and of looking forward with hopes and possibilities for the new year.

In my letter of resignation last week, I really have looked back to the blessings of my time here. Given where we are, I do not think it is appropriate for me to name my hopes for Redeemer’s future at the annual meeting, so I have decided not to give an address.

I will be writing a letter to the wardens and the Bishops with a full reflection on the breakdown in relationship and the issues in Redeemer’s life which I believe need some attention.

I pray that your Holy Week and Easter will be filled with the hope of what it means to move from death to life, as we journey with Christ.

At this time, I will hand over the podium to the Sr. Warden, who will chair the business portion of the annual meeting.”

Rector's Presentation of Gift to the Parish

“When I came here 4 years ago I was given this beautiful pottery bowl, which was made by Peg Wright. It was filled with many stones, some smooth and beautiful and some with rough edges and dull. The stones had been used in the search process as people prayed thousands of prayers for the rector and the dreams of a new chapter in Redeemer’s ministry.

I cherish this bowl and will keep it as a reminder of the best moments of shared prayer and the life shared in the past four years.

I give most of the stones back to you centered by Christ’s light. I hope that you will take these stones as a reminder to continue to pray for your leadership both clergy and laity in the years to come, and that you entrust yourselves to Christ’s light.”