

St. James Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting
Minutes

January 26, 2025

1. Father Lewis Crusoe called the 145th Annual Parish Meeting of the corporation of St. James Episcopal Church of Cheboygan to order and opened with prayer.
2. Joining the meeting online were Phyllis Ward, Greta Ling, Charles Crusoe, Bonnie Quick, Terry Drake, and Sally Spray.
3. The minutes of the last annual meeting were made available online. Murph Monahan moved to approve the minutes, and Jessica Woiderski seconded. Motion carried.
4. The vestry requires the election of three members this year. Last year, the vestry increased the number of vestry members by one, bringing the total number to seven.
 - a. Corey Cooper was elected last year to complete the term of Jolene Amo. Corey is up for re-election to his own first three-year term.
 - b. Jim Ross is not seeking re-election and Dale Landes has agreed to seek a seat on the Vestry.
 - c. Becky Easter was elected last year to complete the term of Dave Bricker. Becky is up for re-election to her own first three-year term.
 - d. No other nominations were received from the floor. Becky Ford moved to elect all three candidates and Trish Gezon seconded. Motion carried. We thanked Jim Ross for his long service on the vestry and for all involved for their patience with this hybrid method of voting.
 - e. The Vestry was reminded that we are required to have a very short organizational meeting immediately after this annual meeting to elect officers.
5. We need to elect two delegates and two alternates to the 2025 Diocesan Convention. The decision to change from four to two delegates is to allow for a great selection of locations for holding the diocesan convention. The diocesan convention will be in Saginaw on October 24-25 at the Horizon Center. The parish pays all expenses – registration, hotel, meals. Nancy Heaston and Annie Coleman volunteered to be delegates, and Becky Easter and Becky Ford volunteered as alternates. Jessica Woiderski moved that we accept these volunteers, and Corey Cooper seconded. Motion carried.
6. We need to amend the Parish bylaws. Our current bylaws were adopted in July of 2015, and were written to confirm to the Constitution and Canons of the legacy Episcopal Diocese of Easter Michigan. There are 10 references to the canons of the legacy diocese in our bylaws. Some of the requirements of those canons have been replaced or abrogated and some have changed significantly. A couple of the significant changes include:
 - a. The Senior Warden must be a member of the Vestry, as must the Junior Warden. The Clerk is no longer required to be a member of the Vestry. The Treasurer is now a required position but need not be on the Vestry.
 - b. All references to the Episcopal Diocese of Easter Michigan have been changed to the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.
 - c. The word “communicant” is defined.

- d. The new bylaws provide for the continued election of the Senior and Junior warden from among their own.
- e. The new bylaws provide for an Assistant Treasurer should we need one.
- f. The indemnification article has changed so that Vestry members cannot be held liable for their actions on the Vestry – the Church will cover their actions unless they are derelict in their duties.
- g. The bylaws provide for a new committee to be called the Digital Evangelization Committee to keep us up-to-date with all things digital and social. Corey Cooper has assisted with the Digital Grant from the diocese and he delivered a report about this grant and the purposes of the Digital Evangelization Committee. Doug Robinson moved to create the new committee and Trish Gezon seconded. Motion carried.
- h. Becky Ford moved to approve the changes to the bylaws as presented and Becky Easter seconded. Motion carried.

7. Reports to the Parish

- a. Senior Warden report: Cindy Gezon was unable to attend due to illness but provided a written report indicating that we need one more photo to complete the Parish directory.
- b. Father Lewis Crusoe provided the Buildings and Grounds Report, including information regarding the plan to provide handicap access to our hall, the cut out of the front curb for handicap access, repair of the heat duct repair that has come undone, adjustment of our furnace which is too large, cleaning out of the Sunday School rooms, and possible use of our hall/rooms for a venue.
- c. Father Lewis Crusoe provided the Financial Report.
- d. Father Lewis Crusoe provided the Christian Service Committee Report as Rich Hill was on a cruise.
- e. Mark Halvorsen provided the Stewardship Committee report. He is one of the co-chairs of the committee.
- f. Becky Ford moved to accept the reports as present, and Trish Gezon seconded. Motion carried.

8. Report from the St. James Endowment Fund, presented by Terry Drake. The endowment fund is providing \$11,000 to the Parish.

9. Parish Necrology. It has long been our custom to remember those who have been part of our lives and who have gone to their glory in the Lord.

10. Father Lewis Crusoe provided a brief report as Priest-in-Charge, including that he is participating in several Diocesan boards and committees, including that to find a new Bishop. Father Lewis Crusoe then led a Closing Prayer.

11. No other questions or concerns were noted.

12. The 145th Annual Meeting was adjourned, moved by Becky Ford and seconded by Trish Gezon.