

St. James Episcopal Church of Cheboygan

Annual Meeting of the Parish

January 30, 2022

1. 142nd St. James Annual Meeting called to order at 11:20 AM by Fr. Lew Crusoe. 19 parishioners and Fr. Lew Crusoe present, 9 parishioners attending online via Zoom, and Sue Bronson in attendance via phone.
2. Father Lew led the participants in prayer.
3. Don Gezon moved, Carol Bricker seconded, the motion to approve the Minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting. The Minutes were approved – 19 hand votes and majority of online poll votes in favor.
4. Fr. Lew shared slides detailing the current vestry member terms and outlined the vestry election plan going forward. Also briefly discussed the parish bylaw that may need to be revisited that prohibits siblings and children of current vestry members from being elected to the vestry.
5. Election of Vestry Members
 - a. Carol Bricker moved; Trish Gezon seconded the motion to elect Terry Drake for a one-year term on the vestry. A majority of in person votes were in favor and the online poll was 3 for 3 in favor.
 - b. Diane Morand moved on the nomination of David Bricker for a three-year term on the Vestry. Mark Elliot seconded the motion. A majority of in person votes were in favor and the online poll was 5 in favor.
6. Election of Delegates to Diocesan Convention – October 28-29, 2022. Fr. Lew discussed the importance of the Diocesan Convention and asked for three volunteers to join him representing St. James at this year's convention. Sue Bronson, Cindy Gezon, and Rich Sangster volunteered to serve as delegates, with David and Carol Bricker serving as alternates. The parishioners in attendance accepted this volunteer delegation.
7. Reports to Parish:
 - a. Senior Warden Report-Rich Sangster thanked the parish for the honor of allowing him to serve as the Senior Warden and expressed gratitude and appreciation for all the work so many members of the parish have done to help St. James this year. He also commented that he and many others appreciate Fr. Lew's dedication to developing our online outreach.
 - b. Financial Reports – Father Lew presented pie charts depicting revenue and expenditures and discussed the financial status of the parish's accounts. He provided a budget projection for 2022, including the purchase of a new furnace. The financials were discussed and dually accepted by the attendees.
 - i. Fr. Lew provided an update of the in-person and online service attendance. Our online service appears to be picking up people who can no longer attend church in person for health or travel reasons, but they are able to maintain a connection to St. James via the service broadcasts.
 - c. Christian Service Report – Fr. Lew provided an overview on the St. James endowment. Due to COVID-19 the Lord's Kitchen has not required our volunteer assistance but St. James made a \$2,500 donation to the Lord's Kitchen expansion project. It was comprised of individual parishioner donations and a contribution from the church.

- d. Endowment Fund Report-No report from Terry Drake. The Vestry will receive the report at a later date. She did explain to the attendees that the endowment fund is comprised of an Edward Jones account and some Citizen's National Bank stock.
8. Remarks of the Priest-in-Charge-Father Lew remarked that the past two years have been both a blur and seemed to last an exceptionally long time. He discussed how he had to learn about a multitude of platforms and technologies to keep the St. James parish connected during the pandemic. The church had to spend \$17,000 to make it possible. We have a successful online Compline service on Wednesday evenings and the current adult study series has 32 participants – combined in-person and via Zoom. We have created worship opportunities to people who cannot be present. However, this has created a newly identified problem. Parishioners staying home to watch the service broadcast in their pajamas, rather than coming in person. Even though we incorporate those watching a service from home by naming the online viewers each week, Father Lew asked that those members who can attend the service in person make the effort to do so on a regular basis to maintain the sense of community at St. James. Father Lew thanked St. James members for their assistance in keeping our services going throughout the pandemic and once the church re-opened to in-person worship. Specifically, he mentioned:
 - a. Doug Robinson and Don Gezon for providing music each week.
 - b. The Altar Guild for their dedication and arduous work preparing for the services throughout the year (Elaine Smith, Ann Patterson, Brenda Sue Bergstrom, and Trish Gezon), their work is so important to what we do.
 - c. Jim Ross for printing bulletins, folding, and mailing them out each month.
 - d. Judy Ross for her willingness to learn a new accounting program.
 - e. The Vestry for capable leadership, especially Rich Sangster, Senior Warden.
 - f. Cindy Gezon and Davey Easter for serving as Digital Ministers who run the broadcast and cameras for the online outreach.
 - g. The acolytesHe concluded that he really likes his job.
9. Attendee comments:
 - a. Jim Ross stated that it was really nice to be able to attend our St. James service while on a trip to New Jersey and that they felt connected to the congregation, even though they were not physically present.
 - b. Elaine Smith urged members to attend church in person if possible. She also commented that the ushers should not be responsible for shoveling snow prior to the service. Father Lew noted that he has spoken to Rich Sangster about this already.
 - c. Father Lew informed the group that he has copies of hymns recorded by the organist in Gaylord and by George (at a Roman Catholic church) so we will be able to have service music in the event neither of our keyboard musicians are available.
 - d. Nancy Heaston said she and Dean appreciate Compline on Wednesdays and thanked Father Lew for his work.
 - e. Jolene Amo stated that Anne Coleman deserves our thanks for her work as well. Father Lew added that she has done very well adjusting to the new system being used to track the offertory each week. Jolene also asked about the parish's charitable giving for the year. She stated that we should be giving 10% or more to help others. Last year St. James used 8.4% of revenue for outright. Jolene says we should do better and recommends using Matthew (verse?) to guide our donations.
10. Father Lew led the group in a closing prayer.
11. Trish Gezon moved; Majority seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:17 PM.