

# St. James Episcopal Church of Cheboygan

## Annual Meeting of the Parish

January 29, 2023

1. The 143rd St. James Annual Meeting was called to order at 11:51 AM by Fr. Lew Crusoe.
2. Father Lew led the participants in prayer.
3. 27 parishioners and Fr. Lew Crusoe present and 9 parishioners (David & Carol Bricker, Terry Drake, Becky Ford, Greta Ling, Jim & Judy Ross, Sally Spray, Phyllis Ward) and Charles Crusoe attending online via Zoom.
4. Rich Sangster moved and Jeff Helmboldt seconded the motion to approve the Minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting. The Minutes were approved – all hand votes and all online poll votes were in favor.
5. Consideration of amendments to the parish bylaws. Changes to the parish bylaws were proposed, discussed, and the following changes were adopted by unanimous vote.
  - a. A proposed change is to Article III, Section B. The proposed change allows others to vote as defined in another section of the bylaws (approving *conference telephone, internet videoconference, or similar communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting may hear each other*;) Motion to adopt the proposed change to Article III, Section B, made by Don Gezon, seconded by Jeff Helmboldt. The motion passed unanimously so those online can continue to vote legally.
  - b. The following amendments were proposed, discussed, and then voted on all at once:
    - i. To Article III, Section F regarding the conduct of meetings, adding the word “regular” to the list of meetings to bring our bylaws in conformity with the Diocesan canons.
    - ii. To Article VI, Section A on Membership, changing the word “service” to “employment”, cleaning up the language.
    - iii. In the same section, proposing a change that would allow a sibling (sister or brother) of a vestry member to sit on the vestry provided he or she did not live with the member currently on the vestry.
    - iv. To Article XIII, Section B, Article 2, adding a reference to email polling as being an acceptable way for the Vestry to vote on a motion. This would bring us in line with the State of Michigan’s Non-Profit Corporation Act of 1982 as amended.
    - v. Trish Gezon made a motion to accept all of the proposed changes to the corporate bylaws and it was seconded by Jeff Helmboldt.
    - vi. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Election of Vestry Members - Fr. Lew shared slides detailing the current vestry member terms and outlined the vestry election plan going forward. The following people agreed to serve in the open positions on the vestry:
  - a. A one-year term – Terry Drake
  - b. A two-year term – Jim Ross
  - c. For a second three-year term – Jolene Amo
  - d. A three-year term – Cindy Gezon
  - e. No additional nominations were made from the floor.
  - f. Chris Jones motioned for a vote by acclamation. No objections were made and 100% of online and in-person votes approved the nominees to the vestry.
7. Election of Delegates to Diocesan Convention – October 27-28, 2024. Fr. Lew discussed the importance of the Diocesan Convention and asked for four volunteers to join him representing St. James at this year’s convention. Sue Bronson, Don Gezon, Nancy Heaston, and Chris Jones

volunteered to serve as delegates, with Rich Sangster and Annie Coleman serving as alternates. The parishioners in attendance accepted this volunteer delegation.

8. Reports to Parish:

- a. Senior Warden Report-Rich Sangster said he is humbled and honored to serve as the Senior Warden. He hears good things from people in town about our outreach in the community.
- 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 2023. The financials were discussed, Rich Sangster motioned to accept the reports as presented and the motion was seconded by Jeff Helmboldt. The motion carried and the reports were accepted by the parish attendees.
- c. Christian Service Committee Report – Fr. Lew provided an overview on the St. James endowment, as Rich Hill was absent. St. James donated \$1,500 to the Lord’s Kitchen, \$1,500 to the Women’s Resource Center, \$1,500 to the Northern Care Center (Free medical clinic), and \$800 to Episcopal Relief and Development. We also give 10% of our pledged revenue to the Diocese as our tithe.
- d. Endowment Fund Report-Terry Drake. Separate from St. James Church, the Endowment Fund committee meets with a financial advisor at least once a year. The fund lost money during the year due to the downturn in the stock market but the fund is set up for the long haul. The committee can decide to make a donation to the church at any time.

9. Remarks of the Priest-in-Charge-Father Lew remarked that our parish is a true community and that he was appointed by the bishop to provide guidance and direction to our congregation and to celebrate the sacraments of Christ. We do not exist as an isolated parish but are part of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan. The Right Reverend Prince G. Singh is our provisional bishop and under his leadership the two dioceses have been working in greater collaboration. This is the “season of practice” as we consider merging the two dioceses so we seek to build bridges between the Eastern and Western Dioceses. Bishop Singh will make a pastoral visit to St. James on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. He discussed the parish census to bring our parish register up to date. A new Parish Directory is in the works. He gave special thanks to:

- a. Rich Sangster for his work as senior warden and for taking care of the parish dinner.
- b. Don Gezon for his service on the vestry, serving as Junior Warden for 6 years. And to all the vestry members for their faithful service and making his job easier.
- c. Judy Ross for her service as Treasurer for the past 10 years and to his brother, Charles, for taking on the job.
- d. Cindy Gezon for her work livestreaming all our liturgies and for taking care of the weekly Payer List.
- e. The Altar Guild members for preparing the sanctuary for the Eucharist every Sunday and Jim Ross for stapling the worship aids and mailing them out to those who worship with us online.
- f. Special thanks to Becky Easter for being the unofficial chair of the Liturgical Environment Committee -for the decoration she expertly plans and executes. And to Tony Easter for his help in rearranging the sanctuary and making the great handrail beside the pulpit.
- g. The lectors and greeters. Also Caitie and Becky Easter for their service as acolytes. He encouraged others to volunteer to serve as acolytes.
- h. Elsie Getz for her work on the card committee of one. She is very faithful in keeping others aware of our support and care.

Fr. Lew concluded that he tells the bishop that “I’m still having the time of my life here.” He said this is all due to the parish’s prayerful and considerate support.

10. Father Lew led the group in a closing prayer.

11. Trish Gezon moved; Rich Sangster seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM.