

**Approved by 2-2-2025 Annual Meeting**  
**Saint Mark's Episcopal Church**  
**Annual Parish Meeting Minutes**  
**February 4, 2024, In Person & Virtually**

**OPENING:**

The Annual Parish Meeting 2024 was called to order by the Rector. The Opening Prayer was offered by The Rev. Thom Sinclair.

The presence of a quorum was announced by Mary Cooper. There were 140 voting members on site and 15 attending remotely.

The Minutes of the 2023 meeting were approved, with Rob Hall moving and David Deutsch seconding approval.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**

The members of the Nominating Committee were the Rector, Michele Morgan; Wardens Jim Brooks and Dave Wellman; retiring Vestry members Jeb Ory, Chris Berendes, and Katherine Buchanan; and Parish members Kit Arrington and Jason Wallis.

Chris Berendes reported that there were six candidates for Vestry and Wardens, representing the diversity of the parish membership. He expressed the gratitude of the Committee for those who had stepped up to assume positions of leadership. Jeb Ory presided over the election process, noting that this was the first contested election since 2014.

**ELECTION OF THE JUNIOR WARDEN:**

Martha Huizenga was nominated by the Committee. There being no nominations from the floor, she was elected by acclamation.

**DIOCESAN DELEGATES:**

J.R. Randall was nominated by the Committee. There being no nominations from the floor, he was elected by acclamation.

**VESTRY MEMBER ELECTION:**

The names of the six candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee were proposed. There being no nominations from the floor, the six nominees each spoke briefly about their interest in serving on the Vestry

and responded to a single question posed by the Nominating Committee. The nominees were: Kristina Keenan, Amilcar Portillo, Elizabeth Becker, Doug Padgett, Janet Vail, and Mitchell Wood.

The voting process was explained, allowing members to vote either in person or remotely and either by paper ballot or electronically.

### **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:**

While the votes were being counted, Senior Warden Jim Brooks addressed the meeting, expressing his appreciation to the Rector for the smooth process for operating the Annual Parish Meeting and to the Rev.

Christopher Phillips for his service to the parish as he departs to become Rector of a local parish. He also expressed appreciation for the retiring Junior Warden, David Wellman, for retiring Vestry members Chris Berendes, Katherine Buchanan, and Jeb Ory, as well as retiring Treasurer Randy Marks, retiring Clerk Shay Waye, and retiring Diocesan Delegate Mary Neznok. He thanked David Deutsch and Karen Falk for preparing the Annual Report distributed at the meeting.

The Senior Warden noted that the parish is bouncing back from the Covid lockdown, with attendance having grown recently by 20%. However, membership is essentially flat and needs improvement. He said that the Vestry had anticipated a small financial deficit for 2023 but there was actually a slight surplus. The budget has been over a million dollars for each of the last three years.

Among the signs of health that he mentioned were outreach by the dance studio, support for immigrants, and the development of a new men's group. Many small groups are expanding. The annual parish retreat will return in June for the first time since the lockdown.

### **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT:**

Retiring Junior Warden David Wellman reported that the building is safer. There are new thermostats and locks throughout, as well as a new fire monitor. The Department of Homeland Security did a safety assessment and is helping with the cost of improvements. The closets have been cleaned out. Lighting in the nave still needs improvement. He expressed his appreciation for Parish Administrator Michael Gravlee for his support and assistance. The membership thanked David for his service with a standing ovation.

## **PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS:**

*Christian Education:* Annabelle Swift, Co-Director of Christian Education reported that there are 300 people in classes in the parish and invited parishioners to join or suggest classes.

*Social Justice:* Edna Boone, Holly Kreuter, and Julie Murphy reported that the Social Justice Committee seeks to lead St. Mark's in caring for vulnerable people through groups such as Everyone Home DC, Incarceration Justice, Gun Violence Reduction, Support for Migrants, Grate Patrol, Samaritan Ministry, assembly of clothing and shoes for immigrants and providing lunches for needy people.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Retiring Treasurer Randy Marks presented the Treasurer's Report remotely from Asia, expressing his thanks to Bill Jordan and Frank Nickerson for their service to the Finance Committee and expressing thanks to Annick Milde for her support and assistance. He reported that the budget had a small surplus in 2023 and that the pledge goal had been met. Plate offerings did well and everyone stayed within budget. The Finance Committee has a list of places where additional funds could usefully be spent if additional income develops.

## **VESTRY ELECTION RESULTS:**

The tellers announced that the people elected to the Vestry for the next three years are Doug Padgett, Kristina Keenan, and Elizabeth Becker.

## **CLOSING:**

The Rector presented gifts to the retiring Vestry members, officers, and Finance Committee leaders.

The Closing Prayer was offered by The Rev. Christopher Phillips, after which the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Anderson Cooper  
Acting Clerk