

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2012 ANNUAL MEETING
Minutes – January 15, 2012

1. Call to Order

The 2012 Annual Meeting of Grace Episcopal Church in Windsor, Connecticut, was called to order at 11:35 AM by The Reverend Harry Elliott, III (Chip).

Father Elliott led the congregation in reciting the Opening Prayer.

2. Minutes

A motion was made by Charles (Chuck) Fowler to accept the minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

3. Wardens' Report

No Report

4. Finance Report

2011 Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

Larry Young highlighted this report. He stated we ended the year with an operating surplus due to the lowering of personnel costs. He said the budget is now sustainable. It was also stated the Auction is no longer an item in the budget.

Stewardship

Tom Woodruff said the congregation pledged \$180,000 last year. This was a 9-1/2% increase and was the first time in three years the pledges actually went up. Tom encouraged the parishioners to try to sustain or increase their current pledge. Pledge cards for 2012 will be available following the meeting.

5. By-laws

Chairperson: Paul Senk, Chairperson; Committee: Max Kuziak, Larry Young, Fred McLeod, Tom Woodruff, Maria Elsdén and Father Elliott.

Using the model from the Diocese, Paul said the following changes were made to our Proposed By-laws:

Simplified, smaller Vestry, Treasurer and Clerk now carry a vote, Vestry meetings condensed from 10 to a minimum of 6, elections are by voice-vote not ballot.

A list of committees is no longer included in the By-laws.

A question was raised regarding Members vs. Non-Members. To be a Voting Member of Grace Church a person must fill out an application, be at least 16 years old, baptized, support the mission of the church, attend church, pledge. A motion was made by Robert Keating to accept the Proposed By-laws of Grace Church. The motion was seconded and carried.

6. Nominating Committee Report

The following members were nominated to serve on the Vestry:

Co-Wardens, Max Kuziak and Fred McLeod; Clerk, Jean Keating; Assistant Clerk, Jane Cimbak; Treasurer, Larry Young; Assistant Treasurer, Merline Fisher. Those serving a One-year Term: Bill Johnson, Pat Loucks and Dan Myers. Those serving a Two-year Term: Jenny Hawran, Joanne Roach, Jane Senk and Liz Yetman. Those serving a Three-year Term: Gaye Rizzo, Tom Woodruff and John Worrell. The Convention/Deanery Delegates are Marcia Hinckley and Merline Fisher. Volunteers are needed to serve as Alternates.

7. Vote for Vestry / Committee Openings

Larry Young made a motion to accepted those nominated to serve on the Vestry. The motion was seconded and carried.

Those going off the Vestry this year are Robert Elsdén, Maria Elsdén and Pat Ould. Father Elliott thanked them for their support and years of service.

8. Other Reports

Diocesan Convention Delegate Report

Delegate Marcia Hinckley reported on the 2011 Connecticut Diocesan Convention. This year the convention was held at the Marriott Hotel and not at the Cathedral. All felt this change made a big difference. She said there were many changes within the parishes in Connecticut; many parishioners shared their experiences. The Diocesan Pledge for all churches is 12-1/2%, of which some can afford this and some cannot. The Diocesan House is going to be sold. Bishop Douglas said it was a time to prune and plant for greater health and productivity of the churches. Bishop Douglas said we are all Ambassadors for Christ.

Fund-It

Carol Flanagan reported she was happy to see the removal of fundraisers from the budget; it is much better to see Fund-It placed with Outreach. She said participation in the program has declined over the past two years; however, business was three times higher in December than in previous months. She thanked the parishioners for their continuous support and said it really is very easy to take part in this program. "Every little purchase you make, added with everyone else's little orders, week after week, add up to a nice big bonus for Grace Church."

Music – Digital / Pipe

Mark Childs said there is not enough amplification at our church and for his goal he would like to see this improved. Regarding music programs for our young people, he said he is interested in starting up a Bell Choir for them.

9. Thanks / Recognition

Father Elliott thanked the Congregation, Wardens, Vestry and Auction Committee for all their work this year. Ruth Kuziak thanked Father Elliott for all that he has already done for us.

10. Open Question / Answer Time

Church Roof

Father Elliott said he learned that it is not the flat roof that is causing all the problems. Rather, it is where the two buildings are joined together that is causing us major problems.

Church Sexton

We now have a Church Sexton, Herb Higgins and we are already seeing major improvements being made within the building.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Annual Meeting, a motion was made at 12:30 PM, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Father Elliott led the congregation in reciting the Closing Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Keating
Clerk

Distribution of Documents

2011 Annual Report
2011 Treasurer's Report
Proposed By-laws
Fund-It Program