

MINUTES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
35TH ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2025

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Fr. Joe Hudson at 10:00 a.m. prior to the beginning of the Sunday worship service. There were 161 in attendance and a quorum was established.

Senior Warden Bob Sawyer presented the Vestry members by name and explained the qualifications needed to qualify for being considered as members. He then introduced the candidates advanced for consideration for the openings on the Vestry for 2025: Paul Altimier, Barbara Davis, and Pat McNickle. Bob stated that the bios of the four candidates had been published during the month of January in the Sunday bulletin and in the Wednesday E-Blast in accordance with the by-laws. Fr. Joe called for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a motion was requested to elect those presented by acclamation. John Mitchell so moved, and Rusty Shelley seconded. The candidates were approved unanimously.

Fr. Joe then requested a motion to adjourn the meeting and to reconvene following the worship service. It was so moved by Ann Peck and seconded by Libby Chinman. The motion passed unanimously.

Following the morning's service, the Annual Meeting reconvened at 11:49 with a prayer by Fr. Joe and with establishing a quorum with a count of 102 in attendance.

The first order of business was to approve the minutes of the 34rd Annual Meeting which was held on February 2, 2024. The minutes had been presented to the congregation in print. Fr. Joe asked for a motion to approve. Rusty Shelley so moved; Dave Beall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob Sawyer introduced the new members of the Vestry along with the continuing members and asked them to stand to be recognized. Fr. Joe acknowledged the retiring members, Don McKelvy, Elaine Hedrick, and Carole LeBate, with praise and thanksgiving for their contributions to the Church. They were also thanked with applause from the congregation.

Fr. Joe then introduced Lynne Altimier with thanks and recognition for being willing and able to step into the Treasurer's position. He then turned the meeting over to Lynne for presentation of the budget. Lynne began by sharing highlights of the 2024 financial history. She also referred the congregation to the annual report for more detailed information. Beginning with renovations and financial growth, she reported the year-end church's income in 2024 was favorable at approximately \$53,800 and expenses were slightly unfavorable at \$9,200 leaving a total favorability balance of \$44,600. Moving on the investment accounts, cash on hand at the end of 2024 was reported as \$629,400, including both restricted and unrestricted funds. Lynne explained that the Wells Fargo accounts were the Building and Grounds investment account and the Memorial Garden investment account, as well as the regular operating checking account. Lynne then moved on to the 2025 Budget noting that it had been approved by the Vestry on January 7, 2025. Lynne states that we expect an increase in revenue and expenses in 2025. Beginning with revenue, the parish has made commitments for 2025 that exceeded 2024 commitments by 6.3%, with an additional \$33,000 contribution committed to operations. Lynne made a big shout out to our parish family for their generosity and continued commitment through the 2024-2025 Pledge Campaign. Moving on, expenses in 2025 are expected to increase. Most notably, the Diocesan apportionment increased 38.4%. The portion of this assessment applicable to the Capital Campaign revenues will be paid from the Capital Campaign fund. Additional increases include insurance and building and grounds, as well as other areas, mainly due to inflation. In ending, Lynne wanted to acknowledge the Finance

Committee: Dave Beall, Steve Sibling, John Buntel, Fr. Joe, Bob Sawyer, and Don McKelvy. Lynne also thanked the 2024 Audit Committee, John Radomski and Joe Bentley, as well as our bookkeeper, Rusty Shelley.

Richard Zalinski asked for an explanation of the Diocesan apportionment. Bob Sawyer explained that the apportionment is based on 10% of revenue brought in over a two-year period. The apportionment along with that of other churches is used for Diocesan expenses and outreach projects. After Hurricane Ian, the Diocese granted us relief in a reduced apportionment for two years, but we no longer have that benefit. Also because apportionments are based on 10% of all contributions, including the Capital Campaign, we can expect that our apportionment for the next couple of years will be higher than usual. Another question was posed as to whether parishes ever see how that apportionment is used. Bob stated that, as examples of regular accountability, the Diocese gives a detailed report which is gone over at Deanery meetings and at the annual Diocesan Convention. Bob continued to explain that the Dioceses sends some funds to congregations if there's a specific need, e.g., a particular outreach endeavor or a specific need such as the loan to us after Ian. Fr. Joe later emphasized that, following Ian, the support from the Dioceses was significant and provided great support. Rusty Shelly asked whether the Diocese ever matches donations as she has had questions to that point. Bob is not aware that they do but provided a contact name for further information.

Bob Sawyer gave a brief summary on the Capital Campaign. He stated that we have received pledges of \$333,610. This exceeded our goal. Of that amount, \$204,000 or about 63% has already been received. Bob then announced that we had just received a check from FEMA for \$48,000 to cover removal of brush and trees. The claim on the building is still pending. Bob went on to state that we have finished reconstruction and renovation and that the church is back to what it was before and even better than it was before. He pointed out that we weathered this hurricane season very well. He said that there were so many people who needed to be thanked for all their help and work that it would be impossible to name them all. However, there are several people who needed to be recognized. Two who were instrumental in the work done were Dave Beall and John Buntel. Bob went on to recognize Peter Walker for his incredible experience and endurance in dealing with the roofing contractors. He said that Peter's help was truly a blessing from God due to the very complicated roof we have.

Fr. Joe repeated Bob's statement that there are so many parishioners who provide exceptional support for the parish that it is difficult to recognize them all, but that there are still a few who needed to be singled out. The first Fr. Joe pointed out was Don McKelvy who was on the Vestry throughout Covid and all of the restoration and renovation time and has done an amazing job over all those years. A second whom Fr. Joe recognized was Christine Puthoff who was Senior Warden also for all the years through Covid and following Ian. Christine had been recognized last year as she left the Vestry, but Fr. Joe wanted to recognize her again for her tremendous contributions in getting the parish through that time. The next person that Fr. Joe wanted to recognize was our Communications Director, Nancy Fees. Fr. Joe pointed out that Nancy puts in many hours besides those she is paid for. For example, among those hours, she heads up the Tech Team and Women's Bible Study and has filled in as Parish administrator to get us through a tough time until a new Parish Administrator was found. He said she is an amazing blessing and thanked her for all she does. A final person that Fr. Joe wanted to specifically thank was Sally Mock. He mentioned particularly that she does so much work behind the scenes so quietly that it seems effortless. Fr. Joe informed us that Sally and her husband will be spending more time up North and a bit less down here. He expressed thanks and appreciation for all she has done and will continue to do for the parish.

Dave Beall then came forward to briefly comment on the Endowment Fund. Dave began with a bit of the Fund's history. In 2005 \$5,000 was donated by a parishioner and put in a savings

account which grew to \$8,000 by 2017. In 2018 the Vestry approved establishment of an Endowment fund, and those monies were transferred to that fund. In 2024, the amount in the fund was \$291,000. The Endowment Fund committee is only allowed to use interest income, but this year has committed some money to the Outreach Committee. Dave went on to say that information will be coming out soon to let people know more about the Fund. Rusty Shelley raised a question on the use of the principal. Dave said that that money could only be approached in the case of a disaster, such as the parish being in such dire straits as being close to having to close. The members of the Endowment Fund committee are Dave, Steve Eibling, and Roy Clark.

Before adjourning, Fr. Joe presented the clergy, Fr. John Warfel, Deacon Michael Kitt, Deacon Rich Wilson, and Deacon John Riherd, and recognized Bob Sawyer as continuing Senior Warden. He then offered a blessing to the congregation.

Motion to adjourn was made by John Johnson and was seconded by Edie Haack. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Jarvis
Clerk of the Vestry