

ANGLICAN PARISH OF SALT SPRING ISLAND
Annual Vestry Meeting
February 21st, 2021

MINUTES

1. Opening Procedures

This year's meeting was held via Zoom videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prior to the start of the meeting, Ron Dyck, Zoom host and parishioner, explained to everyone how the meeting would be run and how voting would take place.

2. According to Canon 6.7 (b), the Incumbent shall be the convener of the meeting

The Rev'd. Gyllian Davies, Incumbent and Chair, opened the meeting with prayer at 11:09 a.m. notice having been duly given. Attendance was recorded by Dale Storm as people joined the Zoom meeting; 56 people were recorded as present. Screenshots of the attendees were also taken by Ron at the beginning of the meeting.

3. Election of Secretary of Vestry

MOVED Lolla Devindisch

SECONDED Debbi Toole

THAT Dale Storm be elected as secretary of this vestry with Eva Lam assisting.
CARRIED.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOVED Joan Dickenson

SECONDED Sarah Belknap

THAT the Agenda be accepted as circulated. CARRIED.

5. Minutes of the AVM of February 16th, 2020

MOVED Lynne Fraser

SECONDED Claire Pickering

THAT the minutes of the 2020 AVM be accepted as circulated. CARRIED.

6. Incumbent's Address

Gyllian Davies spoke to us about change and how we are a church that has changed when some have said the church will never change.

Since last March when the church was required to shut down because of the pandemic, we have had to learn patience, how to live constructively with fear and how not to be "done in" by isolation. We should celebrate our tenacity and ingenuity, curiosity and gentle hearts, and our willingness to share and help each other. Psalm 46 tells us that *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*

The virus has taken people we know and love, as well as strangers. It has caused people to lose their jobs and businesses and caused people to take out their grief on others. It has not been easy. It has been a time of loss and lament. *God is our refuge...Therefore we will not fear,*

though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. (Psalm 46)

There have also been great gifts from this time. The pandemic has brought out peoples' extraordinary acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion. Technology has enabled us to remain connected in ways we never could have imagined (i.e. Zoom). Someday soon when we can worship together again and be with people outside our "bubble", we will want to ponder those lessons we have learned which we want to build upon. We should also think about what we have learned that no longer serves us and can be released or we can do without. Fortunately, *God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns...* (Psalm 46). God's presence will help us to address these important issues.

We are indeed blessed.

7. Special Presentation

Walter Stewart, People's Warden, reminded everyone that at last year's vestry, a special motion was passed to thank Don Cunningham for his many years of service: **"THAT The Anglican Parish of SSI gives glory to God in great thanksgiving for Don Cunningham's selfless commitment of untold hours over decades to the maintenance and care of our churches."**

Ida Marie Threadkell had volunteered to write this in calligraphy and have it framed. The plaque was returned by the framers in March but could not be presented to Don due to the pandemic. Molly Cunningham now presented Don with the finished plaque and Don accepted it with heartfelt thanks.

8. Reception of Annual Reports as a bundle, published and circulated prior to the meeting

MOVED Elizabeth Van Akker

SECONDED Noreen Davies

THAT the 2020 non-financial Annual Reports be approved as a bundle. CARRIED.

9. 2020 Financial Statements

Walter Stewart, People's Warden, presented the financial statements as Acting-Chair of the Finance Committee, and for Andrew Peat, Treasurer, absent at this meeting.

On page 4, we have the actual operating income and expense figures for 2020 and 2019. Total income decreased quite substantially, from \$312,532.08 in 2019 to \$229,300.59 in 2020. If the federal government wage subsidy of \$33,719.37 had not been received in 2020, total income would have even been lower. There is a deficit of \$17,813.37 for net ordinary income and a net loss of \$14,210.30 for 2020 after interfund transfers (being mostly interest from investments) have been added to income. This deficit will be covered by the general operating fund equity (comprised of previous years' surpluses) as shown at the bottom of page 4, leaving a balance of \$27,010.20 in the general operating fund equity account at the end of 2020.

On page 2, we can see that the Consolidated Balance Sheet figures for 2020 are not significantly different than those of 2019. Most of the items in the non-operating funds account cannot be spent; only the income from the investments can be spent.

MOVED Walter Stewart

SECONDED Duncan Mathieson

THAT the 2020 Financial Statements be accepted as presented and passed on to the reviewer for review. CARRIED.

MOVED Peter Howell

SECONDED Lynda Turner

THAT Bill Slade be appointed as the reviewer of the 2020 financial statements. CARRIED.

10. 2021 Operating Budget

Walter Stewart, People's Warden, presented the budget for 2021.

Discussions amongst the Wardens and Parish Council since COVID have been focused on preserving the parish's capacity to "come back" after the pandemic. This budget that is being proposed by the Wardens, Parish Council and Finance Committee is realistic, not overly ambitious, or overly pessimistic. Total income in 2021 is forecasted to be \$225,425.00 with expenses at \$249,507.00, resulting in a forecasted deficit of \$24,082.00. It is hoped that this deficit will be decreased by increased generosity and the ability to go back to somewhat normal operations before year end. If it were not for the surplus fund being available to cover this deficit, we would be forced to make significant cuts to expenses that are already quite fixed in nature. It was pointed out that the surplus fund will not be able to cover any future deficits and that cuts may need to be made in 2022 to ensure no deficit next year.

Parish Council has decided that during a pandemic is not the time to make major decisions about the future. However, Parish Council has approved the creation of a task force to look at all aspects of the parish's life (e.g. income issues, numbers of parishioners, changes in the way things are done electronically) and to come up with recommendations, with a focus on budget performance.

A question was raised regarding the federal government wage subsidy: Why is the subsidy to be received in 2021 only \$15,000.00 when \$33,719.37 was received in 2020? The program changed to a sliding scale system last summer, meaning that only organizations with the most drastically reduced income can receive the maximum benefit under the program. The program is scheduled to end in June 2021 so the parish will only receive the subsidy for six months at a significantly reduced rate.

MOVED Judy Tyson

SECONDED Claire Pickering

THAT the 2021 Operating Budget be accepted as recommended by Parish Council, with

stipulations regarding financing of the deficit and clarification of our financial position with a new task force. CARRIED.

11. Election of Peoples' Co-Wardens

Noted that the appointment of the Incumbent's Co-Wardens, Dovenne Steele and Judy Tyson, will stay on for 2021, a second year.

In the absence of any further nominations, Walter Stewart was re-elected People's Co-Warden for a one-year term and John Metzger was elected People's Co-Warden for a two-year term.

MOVED Jean McClure

SECONDED Elaine Hunt

THAT Walter Stewart and John Metzger be elected as Peoples' Co-Wardens for 2021. CARRIED.

12. Election of Lay Synod Delegates

MOVED Lolla Devindisch

SECONDED Joan Dickenson

THAT Dovenne Steele and Walter Stewart be elected as Lay Synod Delegates. CARRIED.

13. Election of Alternate Lay Delegates to Synod

MOVED Nancy Wigen

SECONDED Marjie Radford

THAT Judy Tyson and John Metzger be elected as Alternate Lay Delegates to Synod. CARRIED.

14. Election of Members at Large to Parish Council

Gyllian Davies read out the names of the retiring members of Parish Council: Doreen Davidson, Elaine Hunt, and Sue Savage (RIP).

As is our custom, we are continuing to introduce a three-year term on council. To avoid a complete change in council membership in any given year, we have asked nominees to accept nomination for an indicated number of years (1,2,3). Those whose term is complete are eligible for re-election.

Continuing:

1-year Jim Smith

2-year Joan Dickenson, Gloria McEachern, Elizabeth Van Akker

New 3-year Anne Clapham (re-election), Debbi Toole, Ellen Vesterdal, and Ralf Waters

MOVED Don Cunningham

SECONDED Noreen Davies

THAT in the absence of any further nominations, the slate of nominees be elected as Members at Large to the new Parish Council for 2021. CARRIED.

15. 2021 Signing Officers

As per the church Canons, the signing officers will be any two of the churchwardens, treasurer or Chair of the Finance Committee.

MOVED Carolyn Evans

SECONDED Lolla Devindisch

THAT the signing officers for 2021 for the parish accounts be any two of:

Incumbent's Co-Wardens (Judy Tyson & Dovenne Steele)

Peoples' Co-Wardens (Walter Stewart & John Metzger)

Treasurer (Andrew Peat)

Acting-Chair of Finance (Walter Stewart)

AND THAT the Wardens be authorized to prepare and sign the appropriate banking documents to that end. CARRIED.

16. Minutes of this Annual Vestry Meeting

MOVED Don Cunningham

SECONDED Ros Woolley

THAT the minutes of the February 21, 2021, Annual Vestry Meeting be prepared by the secretary of vestry, approved by Parish Council at a subsequent Council meeting, be circulated for parishioner perusal, accepted at the next Annual Vestry Meeting in 2022, any actions required be allowed to proceed, and signed by the Chair of Vestry. CARRIED.

17. New Business: None

18. Priest's Appreciations

So many people have stepped up during these challenging times:

Applause goes to the Wardens who have been continually working hard behind the scenes this past year. Deep appreciation goes to Ron Dyck for all the online stuff that we never dreamed was possible! Thank you to Dale Storm for all the help that she gives to everybody, for covering whatever needed to be covered, her good ideas, and for contributing her beautiful photos to the online service. Thank you to Eva Lam for assisting Dale, often invisible to others, and doing whatever needed to be done. Music, wow! Thank you from the bottom to our hearts to David Storm and all the singers of the mini-choir who contributed to the music for the online service. Thank you also to the choir members who weren't able to sing, but we could feel your presence. Thank you to Andrew Peat for soldiering on and to Carolyn Evans for being our envelope secretary and making sure we get our tax receipts. Thank you to Gillian Pierson and Bill Morrison for keeping our building clean and well maintained during this time. Thank you to all who have been individually doing all kinds of things. Your ministry is a boon and blessing to all of us! Also, special thanks go to the diocesan staff for supporting us in so many ways. They have been a blessing to us.

Judy Tyson thanked Gyllian on behalf of everyone.

19. Ballots: Not needed

20. Closing procedures & adjournment

After Gyllian Davies and Ron Dyck explained how the “Zoom coffee hour” would take place after the meeting, the Grace was said by all.

Walter Stewart moved the meeting adjourn at 12:14 p.m.

† † †

These minutes were approved by Parish Council at a subsequent meeting and will be presented for acceptance at the next Annual Vestry Meeting:

Rev. Gyllian Davies, Incumbent & Chair