**Church of the Holy Spirit**

**Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Sunday, January 28, 2018**

Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM. The meeting was opened in prayer. Members present were Beno Lamontagne, Anne Hunnewell, Anne Cochran, Rev. Deacon Maryan Davis, Joan Bowers, Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman, Kate Donahue, Barbara Brooks, Angie Criscuolo, Dick Osborne, Lew Overaker, Kathy Lennox. Other parishioners present were Guy Tillson, Robin Bowers, Benge Ambrogi, Bishop's Assistant for Strategic Initiatives, Frankie and Tom Witmer, Stephanie Osborne, Nancy Plantinga, Elsa Turmelle and Dick Hunnewell. It was determined that we had a quorum for the meeting.

Rev. Kelly made a motion to accept the individual annual reports as clarified. The motion was moved and seconded. With all votes in the affirmative the motion passed.

Rev. Kelly addressed the issue of CHS not having a proposed budget for 2018 to present to the congregation at their annual meeting. Not having a budget does not put us out of alignment for our annual meeting. This annual meeting is an official annual meeting.

Parishioners wanted to know the process that goes into creating a proposed 2018 budget. The following points were made:

* The treasurer puts together a proposed budget showing our income and expenses for the present year and what the treasurer projects the congregation can raise for the coming year. He/she presents this proposed budget to the Vestry.
* The Vestry discusses the proposed budget. Their goal is to approve the proposed budget. The Vestry then presents it to the congregation.
* The CHS parishioner/ congregation can make their feelings/desires for the proposed budget known by talking with their Vestry members or Rev. Kelly. Their feelings/desires can be discussed in the approval process and discussion process amongst the Vestry.
* With the new Vestry having been elected and in place, they will discuss the proposed budget for 2018. The Vestry members will bring to the discussion the ideas/desires/concerns of the congregation. The Vestry will approve the proposed budget. The Vestry when appropriate will call a meeting to present the proposed 2018 budget to the congregation.
* All Vestry meetings, with the exception of the discussion of the proposed budget or personnel issues, is open to the public. Members of the congregation are welcome to come to any Vestry meeting and express their wishes/concerns.
* CHS has no proposed budget for 2018 due to a communication problem between the treasurers of the two congregations on building a 2018 proposed budget.
* With understanding, transparency and trust both congregations can work together.
* CHS appreciates the efforts of Christina Mason as our Senior Warden. Bob Cochran has had a profound influence on the nature and character of this congregation. Each of them made an individual and personal decision to step down from their leadership roles. Rev. Kelly is deeply grateful to both these leaders.
* Since there is time left on both these leaders terms, at this Annual Meeting we will renominate a new slate of leadership for election or re-election from the floor.

The following new slate of leadership was nominated:

* Joan Bowers – Senior Warden for a 1 year term – A Vestry member made the nomination, Beno seconded the nomination.
* Dick Osborne - Junior Warden for a 3 year term – Anne Hunnewell made the nomination, Anne Cochran seconded the nomination.
* Lew Overaker – Clerk – has one year left on his term. No nomination or election needed at this time.
* Treasurer – no nominations at this time. Vestry members and parishioners were asked to think of possible treasurer nominees who are good with numbers. Consider the amount of support there will be for the treasurer in the church office. Our treasurer will do oversight of our budget.

Vestry Members at Large:

* Barbara Brooks nominated for a one year term: Beno placed her in nomination, Kathy Lennox seconded the nomination.
* Angie Criscuolo nominated for a one year term. Anne Hunnewell placed her in nomination. Kathy Lennox seconded the nomination.
* Melissa has left our employ but has left considerable documentation about how she did her job step by step. She will come back to train her replacement.
* Rev. Kelly is in negotiation with a professional bookkeeper.
* Rev. Kelly is in conversation with bookkeeper who presently works for a non-profit.

We placed the Slate of Nominees for Election. Beno made a motion to elect the slate of officers as presented. Kathy Lennox seconded the motion. With all votes in the affirmative the motion passed.

Bengie Ambrogi, the Bishop's Assistant for Strategic Initiatives, spoke to those assembled. He made the following points:

* The relationship between the Diocese and CHS is complicated.
* The Bishop cares for the congregation at CHS.
* The Bishop wants the best intentions for CHS
* The Bishop wants both congregations to thrive
* Non-communication from the Bishop is out of character for him.
* Bengie sees the sale of our building recently as courageous.
* After the sale of our building, this congregation is at its most fragile point, could easily have dispersed and disappeared, but we are here as a faith community.
* CHS has two paths to consider: to move down the path toward a new identity and new vitality and a presence in the Pemi Valley or to move toward dissolution
* It looks like CHS is stepping up and moving toward a new identity.. Someone will step forward to fill your treasurer's position.
* CHS needs to figure out if their congregation has vitality or not.
* CHS has the option to go to the Diocesan Convention and change our status from a Parish to a Mission. As a Mission we would need more oversight from the Bishop.
* We presently have two independent Episcopal churches in the neighborhood on both sides of the river.
* To move forward is a leap of faith: it will need energy, vitality, leadership, vision, money, desire to be the hands, feet and the heart of God in this place.
* We have resources: 8 AM people, 9:30 people, students at PSU wondering about religion, spirituality, “church”, faculty at PSU who work in higher education.
* Kelly is a resource. Christ is working in this place; Christ is working at CHS.
* We have resources.
* God gives us more than we ask for or imagine. God loves us and gives us what we need.
* Jesus dives into our ministry. He heals people's hurts, addictions, obsessions. He sees our individual brokenness. Healing is available to us. We just need to ask.

CHS can:

* Their dreams don't always go as expected.
* Stay in our broken places.
* Jesus calls us out of our brokenness.
* Do you/we want to be healed individually or as a faith community?

The following concerns were expressed about the CHS faith community:

* There is no “church” in Plymouth.
* There is a problem of distance getting CHS parishioners to Ashland.
* CHS is handicapped accessible at Griswold
* Ashland is not handicapped accessible because no bathroom facilities in the church; need to go to parish house and down elevator.
* If Plymouth had a later service people would come
* **At the conclusion of this discussion the question CHS has to answer for itself: who is CHS? What does CHS want? Who do we want to be? How is CHS going to let people know that there is an Episcopal Church in Plymouth?**
* **Intentional focus on what CHS wants to be.**
* We want to share our space as we did before sale. Our present “chapel” is not big enough to share at this time.
* What does the Bishop want for CHS?
* The Bishop wants to grow this church (this congregation); he wants this congregation to thrive; he wants to grow connections with PSU.
* CHS has resources. The members of this congregation need to work together to have a vibrant faith community in Plymouth.
* How do we work with what we have?
* Imagine new ways to do things. Imagine where we might worship in the community.

There was a motion made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Hancock