

St. Gregory's of Nyssa Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2021

Present: Joe Bolling, Tim Yip, Paul Fromberg, Anne Symonds, Keith Cobell, Linda Hall, Burton Edwards, Katherine Krebs, Margaret Simpson

Also Present: Members of the SGN Parish

1. Paul convened the January 2021 SGN Parish Meeting with a prayer at 11:00am.
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. The agenda for the 2021 SGN Parish meeting was adopted by unanimous acclamation.
3. Review of 2020 Financials
 - a. Leesy gave a review of the 2020 year-end budget. The church's donated revenues were slightly below 2019, which is remarkable given how the church was not able to meet in-person for most of the year. SGN's rental income dropped substantially after the Covid19 lockdown began. SGN was able to correspondingly reduce its expenditures, ending the year with a small surplus of \$3,491.
 - b. Leesy said that the church had completed the original timeline of the Growing in the Light capital campaign and had collected all but \$135,000 of the campaign pledges. There is about \$70,000 remaining from the campaign funds collected so far. The money has gone to refurbishing the church's rafters, bathrooms, and a host of other building improvements and maintenance items. The main remaining project is the repainting of the church interior.
4. 2021 Budget Presentation
 - a. Keith gave an overview of the 2021 budget. He explained that he had developed the budget in concert with Leesy, Paul, and the SGN vestry. The budget projects low revenues, given the unknowns around rental income and community giving in 2021. The 2021 budget assumes that it is better to plan for low income and be surprised by higher-than-expected income than the reverse.
 - b. Keith said that the primary expense in the budget is personnel, which is projected to be a larger expense than in 2020 given that Peter will be on the church's payroll for all of 2021. Paul explained the Diocesan Assessment line item which is another large expense at \$71,658.62. This money goes to support the mission of the broader church. SGN has decided not to request assessment relief for 2021. In total, the 2021 budget runs at a ~\$72,000 deficit which will come from the church's rainy-day funds. Leesy explained that in total the church has about \$175,000 in reserves to cover such a deficit.
 - c. Keith, Leesy, and Paul answered questions about the budget from parishioners.
5. Vestry Elections
 - a. Tim explained that the vestry serves as SGN's board of directors, consisting of 8 members who serve 3-year terms. This year there are 4 positions open for election: Secretary (term ending January 2024), Finance Commissioner (term

ending January 2025), Sacred Space Commissioner (term ending January 2024), and Strategic Presence Commissioner (term ending January 2024).

- b. Tim moved the nomination of the following candidates:
 - i. Will Capps as Secretary of the Vestry
 - ii. Andy Wells as Finance Commissioner
 - iii. Ben Cryer as Sacred Space Commissioner
 - iv. Bill Phillips as Strategic Presence Commissioner
 - c. The nominated candidates were elected to the vestry by unanimous acclamation.
6. Election of Delegates to the Diocesan Convention
- a. Tim explained that delegates from SGN attend deanery meetings with delegates from other churches. Larisa explained that the position is a good opportunity to see the inner workings of the diocese, as the deanery representatives get to vote in pieces of diocesan legislation. The position has a 1-year term and involves attending four deanery meetings and one diocesan convention over the course of the year.
 - b. The following parishioners volunteered to act as deanery representatives for SGN. Paul said that any other interested parishioners should reach out to him, as there are six total positions.
 - i. Max Lane
 - ii. Will Capps
 - iii. Kelsey Menehan
 - c. The candidates were elected as deanery representatives by unanimous acclamation.
7. Membership Committee Report
- a. Linda Hall thanked the members of the Membership and Connection Committee: Holly Veldhuis, Susanna Singer, Betsy Porter, Libby McQuiston, and Rick Cornelius. Linda discussed the activities of the committee, including finding new ways for the church to engage with the neighborhood and bring in new church members.
8. Rector's Report
- a. Paul thanked the outgoing vestry members, Joe Bolling, Keith Cobell, Katherine Krebs, and Burton Edwards.
 - b. Paul thanked Sanford for his hard work over the last year learning how to run a choir and conduct church music through the internet.
 - c. Paul thanked Leesy Taggart for her hard work keeping the church financially on track with an eye towards mission and ministry.
 - d. Paul thanked Brian Koczan for his work as the parish administrator.
 - e. Paul thanked the leaders of the food pantry for their hard work finding ways to operate during the pandemic.
 - f. Paul thanked Peter for his work as assistant rector, saying that Peter's arrival was a blessing and that it had been a joy having him onboard.

- g. Paul thanked everyone who had acted as a zoom host for the church's virtual services, in particular Kyle Oliver for helping the church get set up early in the pandemic.
 - h. Paul thanked the assisting clergy at SGN for their pastoral help to the community.
 - i. Paul thanked the entire SGN community for working to maintain communal relationships during the pandemic.
 - j. Paul said that there would be communion delivered to anyone who wants it for the Ash Wednesday service.
 - k. Paul said that Larisa Shaterian is now a postulate for Holy Orders and hopes to begin seminary in the Fall.
 - l. Paul said that he has another book coming out, titled The Art of Disruption. It is about his experience making worship happen during the pandemic and over the last 40 years.
 - m. Paul said that the Growing in the Light capital campaign is winding down, but that there is a lot of work that the church still wants to do, particularly with regards to the columbarium project, renovating the courtyard, and making adequate room for the food pantry.
 - n. Paul said that SGN had received a gift of \$150,000 from Rick Fabian. This gift would go towards the painting of another large wall icon near the entryway to the church. Rick has asked Paul to paint this icon. Paul said SGN hopes to secure a match of \$200,000 from the parish to support other capital improvement projects like the columbarium. More details about the "Tree of Life" capital campaign will be available in the coming months, pending the approval of the vestry.
 - o. The parish thanked Paul for his leadership over the last year.
 - p. Anne shared that SGN would distribute a digital survey soon to gauge interest and thoughts from the parish on reopening.
9. Peter adjourned the SGN annual parish meeting with a prayer at 12:20pm.