



St. John's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COLD SPRING HARBOR

Annual General Meeting: Sunday May 5th 2019

Minutes: Jeremy X.A Bradford

Attendance: Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, Members of the Congregation

Opening Prayer: The Rev. Gideon L. K. Pollach

Senior Warden: Frank welcomed everyone to the meeting commenting on the great attendance and called the meeting to order. He also thanked Sue Waiter for her work in pulling together the Annual Report document. He was very happy with the stability and growth of St Johns reflected in the large size of the recent confirmation class. He expressed thanks to the curate search committee, the Vestry nominating committee and mentioned the appt. of Gideon to the Dean of the North Shore churches which reflect well on St Johns and its leadership in the community. Frank then invited Ted Bahr the chair of the nominating committee to address the meeting.

Nominating Committee: Ted thanked the Nominating Committee (Nelson, Barry, Kirsten, Tom) for their excellent work in selecting new Warden and Vestry candidates. To replace Frank as Senior Warden the nomination is Seamus Mitchell. To replace Anne on the Vestry, the nomination is Nancy Engelhardt Cashin. To backfill Seamus on the Vestry, the nomination is Matt O'Connell. Ted asked for the candidates to be proposed, seconded and all in favor to vote on these appointments. All candidates were unanimously voted into office.

Rector's Opening: Gideon stated that St Johns is a good news story and recounted a story about his son Woody who had a not so positive interaction with a teacher. This is NOT that story. We have made much progress in the last 12 months but this has not changed who we are. We have grown in our charity, increased our giving and stewardship, managed our expenses well, embraced the 5 points of our mission. We remember fondly the last year through baptisms, Christmas, Easter, confirmations, amazing moments of friendship, amazing music, wonderful outreach programs and much more. St Johns is thriving in love, in impact, in service and in leadership. **Thanks be to God.** But this is not a time to rest on our laurels, we have much still to accomplish together including the upcoming budget, continued stewardship generosity, revival of outreach and faith formation work with our young congregants. This is a not a good news story it's a GREAT news story.

Treasurers Report: Anne started with a list of highlights from 2018. The stewardship campaign Vision 2020 has positively changed the giving pattern of the congregation and relieved some difficulty of receiving most donations in the last few months of the year. We still have work to do but all indications are that this effort was a great success. Our income this year at \$661K exceeded the previous 3 years. It was \$85K more than 2017 and \$100K more than 2016. Our expenses were slightly higher as well, primarily due to retaining the James Company to assist with the stewardship campaign. Our Total Operating Expenses were \$943K. Thankfully we didn't experience too many weather issues that the building and grounds team had to address. We still do have a concerning draw on our savings account. We budgeted that we would need to pull \$145K to cover expenses but actually needed \$260K. This is not sustainable. Our savings account had a \$3.9M balance and our draw was \$260K although accounting for stock gifts that were not liquidated, the actual draw ended at 210K or 5.2% which was higher than previous years. We have set our 2019 budget at \$907K. 1.5% over 2018. We expect to draw approx. 100K in 2019 with a goal of not drawing at all from our savings in 2020! Two thirds of our expenses went to support the mission of the church, 8% to buildings and grounds, 12% to outreach and the balance to other programs. In 2019, we need to increase our contributions by 9% to meet our budget. Anne expressed confidence that this was achievable. She also noted that this year-to-date we have not dipped into our savings account at all which is very positive.

Stewardship Report: Seamus expressed thanks to everyone for their increased contributions this year. The new Vision 2020 campaign is designed to reduce any reliance on our endowment fund from 2020 onwards. The James Group have been a great partner in helping us devise a relational strategy for giving. Our goal was an additional \$200K in pledges over 2 years to close the gap by 2020. We had 60 volunteers in parish that took part in calling, emailing and talking to others. It was an honest and transparent approach that was well received. This resulted in 149 families pledging to St Johns and an 80% increase in pledges to \$459K. Currently 74% of households give to St Johns but only 34% pledge – we should try to increase this number. 2019 goal is for 51% of families to pledge. Pledge income is 31% of our total budget.

Curate Report: Jesse reported on youth and families' activities and recounted a story about a confirmation candidate who wasn't sure that he was going to like him. The goal is to teach our children about biblical study through experiences to let them explore what faith means through telling of stories. This year we had a separate class for 6/7/8/9 year olds in a new classroom. Jesse thanked both Katie and Josie and all the volunteers for their hard work in helping with children's programs. He reiterated the need to keep telling the stories of the good work being done in the children's ministry. On Blue Green Theology, we started this work almost exactly a year ago. Very exciting and strong interest. Includes kayaking, beach clean-up, vegetable

garden, oyster farming, photoshoots etc. Continue to make great progress here. Jesse will continue to be connected to St Johns through the North Shore deanery.

Outreach Report: Laura provided an update on the progress within the Outreach program. We have an array of programs reflecting our shared belief to help others, particularly those who are struggling and less fortunate than we are. She explained that Outreach was going through a transition period with a new chair(Laura), a new steering committee and a review of our strategy and programs. It has still been a very productive year and we should all be excited by what lies ahead. HIHI, St Johns Day Camp, Blue Bag, Clothing Drive, Haiti, thank you to everyone for helping and attending these great efforts. Laura mentioned that many Long Islanders who were homeless actually held down jobs given the cost of living here which was a surprise. The Outreach Steering Committee is developing a plan for our parish priorities and how to have the greatest impact. They are working on updated mission and vision statements. In a few week's a listening campaign will be launched to have internal and external conversations to understand the needs of the community. How do we find new and better ways to put out faith to work. On Sunday May 19th there will be another open outreach meeting which Laura encouraged everyone to attend. The Outreach committee is also evaluating and making decisions on outreach grants shortly based on the principles of communication, St Johns priorities, self-reliance and creating lasting change. Laura also reminded the community about the St Johns day camp and the wonderful opportunities to volunteer with children. There will be a fundraising appeal for the Day Camp that would benefit from our generosity.

Rectors Closing Remarks: Gideon reminded the congregation of the great work that is being done at the African American cemetery across from the Rectory. He also reflected on the success of the Long Island Opiod group that St Johns is a part of. He thanked Frank and Jesse for their commitment to St Johns. Frank will be celebrated at the upcoming Vestry Dinner and Jesse and Meredith at the Church Picnic. Gideon reminded everyone the benefits of having more than one clergy and our willingness to support (and need) a new Curate. After an extensive search process, we have found a new Curate - Mary Elizabeth Mills Curran. Mary Beth has an impressive background including studying physics at Welsley, Divinity at Yale and Stanford and outreach at Episcopal City mission. She also has experience working with children and youth. Gideon thanked the search committee (Mary Jo, Joanna, Frank, Seamus, Harry). We are thrilled that she has agreed to join us. Gideon also announced he had been appointed Dean of the North Shore by Bishop Provenzano (11 churches between Hempstead and Huntington). Meaning he will still meet with Jesse monthly in his new role.

Frank opened the floor to questions:

Question 1: Trudy asked about gifts of stock to the church and the policy of immediate liquidation. Gideon answered that yes our policy was to immediately liquidate any stock gifts but due to some challenges with our investment manager this was not completed for some donations in 2018. It will be going forward.

Closing Prayer: The Very Rev. Gideon L. K. Pollach

Frank called the meeting Adjourned.