

# **Minutes of the Annual Meeting 2021**

## **St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Glassboro, NJ**

January 31, 2021

I. Rector Todd Foster opened the meeting with a prayer at 2pm on Zoom. The Annual Meeting had to be held virtually this year due to Coronavirus pandemic restrictions put in place by the Diocese of NJ.

### II. Announcements

1. Father Todd appointed Stacy Noll as the Annual Meeting Manager as required by the diocese. She will be in charge of the technological aspects of the meeting including conducting polls, presenting slides, muting people as needed, and answering questions in the chat.
2. Father Todd announced that we had the needed quorum of the state of New Jersey in order to conduct the meeting-- 3 people!
3. A copy of the Annual Report can be downloaded from the church website if you did not pick one up in person at a church service.

III. Carl Kinsley made a motion that we accept the minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting and Rich Drobil seconded the motion. Stacey then conducted a Zoom poll where 100% of participants (20 households) approved the motion.

### IV. Nominations and Voting

1. Nominations for Vestry, Senior Warden, Delegates to Convention, and Delegates to Convocation were submitted to the Rector at the beginning of the year. A voting guide which contained a ballot was prepared and mailed to all Members in Good Standing. Parishioners could also request a ballot. Everyone was asked to return the ballot by mail, in person, or by email before the meeting, or they could be prepared to vote at the meeting.
2. When the Rector called for additional nominations from the floor, there were none. Nominations were closed at that time.
3. Tal Kramer, Senior Warden, made a motion that the assembly accept the slate of nominees that were in the voting guide by acclamation. Bryan Appleby-Wineberg seconded the motion. A Zoom poll was prepared in which 100% of participants (24 households) approved the motion.

### V. Senior Warden's Address (2:14pm)

Tal Kramer expressed his thanks to all those he worked with in the last 10 years on the Vestry. He is rotating off after being Senior Warden for the last four years. He spoke about how St. Thomas' was still thriving in 2020 even though we experienced a lot of loss. He finished by encouraging Eric Cephas as he steps into the role of the new Senior Warden.

### VI. Rector's Address (2:18pm)

The Reverend Todd Foster reviewed the year and talked about how St. Thomas' dealt with the challenges of the pandemic head on. Dealing with change in a faithful way is one of the things which has kept St. Thomas' as a light in the community for 230 years. He thanked all those who stepped up to the challenges of 2020, and encouraged us to look to God during changing circumstances.

VII. Deacon's Address (2:29pm)

The Reverend Doctor John Hanson addressed the difficulties of 2020. Not only has he personally had health challenges, but many of his usual ministries were limited or postponed. Conversely, Kitchen of Hope doubled their food giveaways after the pandemic hit and now have food distributions on both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays of each month. He expressed his thanks to Rachael Owen for her leadership in our campus ministry group, [TEC@RU](mailto:TEC@RU) and gave his thanks for all of those who have participated in ministry activities at St. Thomas' this year.

VIII. Stewardship Report (2:35pm)

Sarah Ternay, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, spoke of how 2020 was a unique year for finances as well. She reported that \$134,526 has been pledged by a total of 59 families for 2021. Both of these numbers are the third highest of the last 10 years, with only 2019 and 2020 yielding more. She thanked everyone on the Stewardship Committee as well as all who support the St. Thomas' family financially. She also reminded us that it is never too late to pledge if you haven't filled out a card yet.

IX. Treasurer's Report (2:39pm)

Treasurer Harold Lucius presented slides about the finances of 2020 and 2021. In 2020, 97% of pledges were fulfilled. We also ended up with a surplus since our expenses were under budget and our income was buoyed by investment income, seasonal contributions and a Payroll Protection Program grant from the government.

For 2021, the Finance Committee prepared a bare bones budget based on 2021 pledges and the actual expenses of 2020. With an increased expense for cleaning the Parish Hall to diocesan specifications, we are planning for a shortfall of \$8765 for the year, but that could potentially be made up by additional pledges.

X. Elections Announced (2:51pm)

Senior Warden Tal Kramer announced that the following people have been elected to the following positions for 2021:

Vestry

Barbara Cadogan  
Stacy Noll  
Wayne Rowbotham

Senior Warden

Eric Cephas

Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Cole J. Banning  
Tal Kramer  
Maiiya O'Neal  
Alternates: Can be appointed by the Rector  
at the last minute this year since the  
Convention will be held on Zoom

Delegates to Convocation

Cole J. Banning  
Eric Cephas  
Becky Foster  
Gretchen Owen  
Rachael Owen  
Sarah Ternay

XI. Closing (2:53pm)

No one had any questions, so Father Todd mentioned that Vestry meetings are open meetings and all are welcome to visit. He closed the meeting with a prayer, which was followed by a photo slideshow of the year's events. Meeting adjourned. 46 adults in attendance.

Respectfully Submitted, Becky Foster