

## THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE VESTRY

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Vestry of Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church was called to order at 4:30 p.m. January 15, 2025, by Senior Warden Dee Ann Anigian, in Room 201. Holy Eucharist officiated by Fr. Ken Brannon preceding the meeting

Members in attendance were Dee Ann Anigian, Sr. Warden; Hudson Weichsel, Jr. Warden; Julie Allen, Warden-at-Large; Allison Bovard, James Carry, Jim Chambers, Squeaky Connelly, Terry Demler, Elizabeth Gambrell, Amanda Harris, Zoe Hart, LeAnne Langholz (via phone), Jack Marshallsea, and J. Puckett. Not in attendance was Susan Barnicoat.

Ex officio: Chris Girata, Rector; Becky Odlozil, Treasurer; Dianna Bowen, Chancellor, Ken Brannon. Also in attendance were Rob Baber, Bhav Masih, Meredith Turner, Alma Vega-Rouse, Colleen O'Hara, Andrew Grosso, Matt Waller, and Bob Campbell

In the spirit of embracing the "Pray" in our "Pray", "Learn", "Serve", "Give" pillar, Dee Ann Anigian led a prayer that was meaningful for her.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

For clarification purpose, especially for new members, there are important reports to review in the consent agenda - though not items that require a vote on a specific thing. We put these reports together in the consent agenda to give everyone time to review before the meeting. However, if you have a question about something in the Consent Agenda (CA) or want clarification about something - you may of course contact the author of the report in advance. Or, you may ask your question here, even though the author isn't typically here. Ken may know the answer or know which staff person to ask. Asking for clarification about something doesn't mean you want to pull a report out of the consent agenda and discuss it separately.

Dee Ann asked if anyone had a request to remove anything from the CA for further discussion? With none, Is there a motion to accept the CA? A motion was made and seconded. After no discussion and no one opposing, the motion was passed unanimously.

### **HORIZON OUTREACH FUND – Bob Campbell**

Last month, Bob and Matt Waller came and gave a very informative report, which made the reading of the HOF Annual Report so clear. We appreciate and are proud of the good work they are doing on SMAA behalf. Dee Ann turned the meeting over to Bob to set us up for the 2 votes we'll take today.

Motion to approve the appointment of Bob Campbell, Carol Goglia and Ben Leal for a second consecutive three-year term on the HOF Board, as laid out in the Funds Usage Agreement, which authorizes the vestry to name 3 members to the board.

Given that this grant request has been researched and approved by the HOF Board, is there a Motion to approve a \$50,000 grant to Heart House by the HOF in 2025? A motion was made, seconded and approved.

### **RECTOR'S REPORT – Chris Girata**

Chris began his report by recognizing Caroline Moore's retirement. This will be Caroline final vestry meeting as Director of Advancement. Chris celebrated Caroline's commitment to Saint Michael, especially her leadership of the *Building Our Future* campaign. Chris also welcomed Alma Vega-Rouse, who has been hired to be our next Director of Advancement. Alma comes to Saint Michael with extensive experience in the Dallas community and will have more than a month of overlap with Caroline before her retirement.

The 2025 Stewardship Campaign is nearing its end. We are ahead of last year's raise to date, and expect to reach and exceed our goal. Chris asked the vestry members to take time at the end of the meeting to sign up to contact those parishioners who pledged in 2024 but have not yet pledged in 2025. Alma prepared sheets of giver names and put them on the far wall of the Coke Room so that vestry members can physically sign up to make those contacts this week.

The capital campaign is nearing its end. We will officially end the campaign on January 31, 2025. We have raised well more than our stretch goal of \$65MM, and anticipate exceeding \$75MM. This will completely cover the full expense of the project, without the need for any long-term debt. An amazing commitment by our church!

Chris spoke about the projected 2024 year end close. In December, we knew we would be close to break-even on our budget, but we had restricted money that had been given during the year. Leadership decided to use some of that restricted money to give the staff modest performance rewards before Christmas. It's likely that these performance rewards will mean that our annual expenses slightly exceed our annual revenue, but the restricted funds will more than cover the difference. The Wardens Committee is in support, and the vestry members voiced great support for this decision, too.

Finally, a celebratory note: Jack and Mary Katherine Marshallsea are expecting their first child this summer! We will celebrate them formally later in the spring. Congratulations!

### **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Dee Ann Anigian**

Stewardship Statements and Safe Church Update: Dee Ann reported that at this point, every vestry member has signed the stewardship statement and the conflict of interest form. In

addition, all new members have either completed the Safe Church modules or are working through them. Thank you also for that.

Stewardship: Please be timely with the stewardship emails we are asked to complete. It does make a difference. In December, when we emailed 220 households, it resulted in 74 pledges.

In Person Attendance: Finally, new members may have noticed that it is possible to call in to our meetings if you must be away. that isn't encouraged but it is allowed if you are unavoidably away. It is a listening only option. You have a non speaking role and you may not vote. Please contact Bhav in advance if you need to exercise this option.

### **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – Hudson Weichsel**

No Junior Warde report

### **TREASURER'S REPORT – Becky Odlozil**

#### Financials:

- Becky referred to the Statement of Activities for year-end 2024, Soft Close.
- Soft Close is an initial closing of the books, with the opportunity to make further adjustments that relate to 2024 as they are identified in January. In February, the Hard Close Statement of Activities will be presented to Vestry for a vote.  
Becky reviewed the financial information presented in the meeting packet. Total Revenue Available is \$7.6 million, \$40 thousand less than budget. Unpledged contributions came in \$232 thousand under budget. Expenses for the year were less than budget by \$40 thousand, reflecting a small overall surplus for the year.

The initial draft of the Statement of Activities reflected a deficit, partially due to Performance Awards that were given to the staff but not budgeted (and have never been budgeted). For the year 2025 and going forward, Performance Awards will be included in the budget. The Finance Committee discussed and agreed with a plan to use \$50 thousand from the Vestry Designated Fund so that a budget deficit would not occur for the year 2024. The Finance Committee recommends this plan to Vestry for approval. It is deemed a plan because Hard Close has not been completed and some numbers may change. The Statement of Activities presented in this packet reflects that plan – with a surplus of \$123.

A motion was made to approve the plan, and since coming from a committee, a second was not required. The motion was unanimously approved.

Becky reviewed the Statements of Financial Position as of December with \$110MM in assets on the Unrestricted side, and \$12MM in assets on the Restricted side.

**Project Management document**

- A review of the Capital Project reflects payments through January 12 of \$27 MM is 40% of the total budget. The contingency line remains the same as last month with \$2MM remaining.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, EXECUTIVE SESSION, ADJOURNMENT**

Dee Ann adjourned regular mtg at 5:45 and moved into Executive Session, inviting Becky to stay. The executive session was adjourned at 5:55 and returned to regular session. And the meeting then adjourned at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bhavnita Masih

Executive Assistant to the Rector