

# 2011 Annual Meeting Minutes

Reported by Opal Doerr  
For the meeting on January 23, 2011

**Opening Prayers** – Fr. Jerry Thompson

**Appointment of Secretary** – Opal Doerr

**Approval of 2010 Minutes**

*Andrea Nelson moved that we approve the minutes as submitted. Motion was seconded by Bob Kuzelka. Motion Approved: All.*

**Further Comments from the Rector**

Fr. Jerry spoke briefly concerning the difficult situation regarding former Deacon Christine Grosh. All disagreements involve at least two people and he acknowledged that both he and Christine had contributed to this problem. Mediation as facilitated by the Bishop's staff could potentially have addressed the situation, but Christine chose not to continue that process. Although his relationship with Christine is still broken, he continues to hope and pray for healing some day.

**Report of Nominating Committee** – Ray Lowther

Ray Lowther presented the slate of three vestry candidates – Donna Harler-Smith, Berwyn Jones, and Kate Maattala-Sirota. Biographies and statements from the vestry candidates had been distributed with the Sunday bulletin for the previous three weeks. There was a pause while the floor was opened for additional nominations, but there were none.

Lyn Forester will become Senior Warden and Jim Karas has agreed to serve as Junior Warden.

*Dean Settle moved that all of the vestry candidates and the senior and junior wardens be accepted. The motion was seconded by Jonah Sirota and Todd Sneller. Motion Approved: All.*

**Reports** – *See Attachments*

- ⑩ Administrative Assistant
- ⑩ Adult Formation
- ⑩ Altar Guild
- ⑩ Audit Committee
- ⑩ Building & Grounds Committee
- ⑩ Campus Ministry Committee
- ⑩ Clergy
- ⑩ Community Service Group
- ⑩ Financial Advisory Committee
- ⑩ Finance and Treasurer Report
- ⑩ Gathering Place

- ⑩ Music
- ⑩ Nominating Committee
- ⑩ Pantry
- ⑩ Personnel Committee
- ⑩ Special Events Committee
- ⑩ Vestry and Wardens
- ⑩ Youth Formation

Fr. Jerry thanked everyone for their dedication to all of the ministries. He extended a special thanks to those who had completed their three-year vestry terms – Julee Lowe, Ray Lowther, and Doug Durham.

### **Treasurer's Report** – Stephanie Hill and Mark Musick

Stephanie reported that 2010 ended up with a positive balance of about \$55. In addition, SMOC increased contributions to general outreach funds (not included in the budget) by about \$500. Stephanie explained an oddity with Fr. Bob's salary – the Diocese directed us to pay him a specific salary to not endanger his Social Security Disability payments, but the funds provided by the Diocese for his salary were substantially more than the specified amount. Although the difference is a temporary plus in SMOC's account, it does not belong to us and is not included in our budget.

Mark introduced the 2011 budget and explained some of the challenges. The Diocese is reducing funding for campus ministry activities. In the past, campus ministry funding was part of the Diocese general budget. Now campus ministries will be funded through the Alleluia Fund. Beginning with 2011, SMOC will have to request reimbursement for campus ministry activities and only up to \$9,500 – \$15,500 less than the Diocese 2010 Grant In Aid.

After the pledging was completed, the budget was nowhere near balanced. Very difficult choices had to be made to balance the 2011 budget:

- There are no staff wage increases included.
- The Diocesan Asking had been \$36,000. The vestry decided to reduce that to \$26,000.
- \$4,000 will be moved from the General Funds balance. This fund is our emergency resource – using those funds for operating expenses is not sustainable over time.
- \$17,432 is included in the budget as the “Faith Contribution” line item. These are funds contributed above the pledged amount or funds specifically designated as “faith offering.” This does not include plate offerings.

Bob Kuzelka expressed his appreciation for Stephanie's and Mark's dedication and diligence as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Mark also thanked Denise Meredith for her assistance as the SMoC administrative assistant.

## **Appointments** – Fr. Jerry Thompson

Chris Slane was appointed as the Student Vestry member.

## **Election of Delegates and Alternates for Annual Council**

There will be two Diocesan Councils this year and the following parishioners have agreed to serve as delegates:

Episcopal Election (June 4, Hastings, NE): Berwyn Jones, Ray Lowther, Bob Kuzelka, and as alternate, Mary Lutz.

Annual Council (November 3-5, Kearney, NE): Berwyn Jones, Ray Lowther, Jeanine Jewell, and as alternate, John Flint.

*Andrea Nelson moved that the nominated delegates and alternative delegates be approved. Motion was seconded by Connie Backus-Yoder. Motion Approved: All.*

## **Other Business**

- Fr. Jerry thanked the staff, both paid and unpaid, for their dedication to SMoC. He also thanked the outgoing vestry members and, especially Joyce Wagner as outgoing Senior Warden, for their dedicated service during a rather challenging year.
- Bob Kuzelka expressed his appreciation of Fr. Jerry's perseverance and dedicated pastoral care.
- Lisa Sutton, speaking for the Building & Grounds Committee, is looking for volunteers to help maintain SMOC. Some of the current volunteers are experiencing physical limitations as they get older.
- An anonymous donor is offering to finance solar panels for SMOC. If you'd like to serve on the committee working with this, please contact Lisa Sutton, Mark Musick, or Richard Toren. Pamela Starr asked Fr. Jerry to express our thanks to the anonymous donor.
- Mark Musick is coordinating 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays at SMOC. These are interesting activities (and snacks, of course) that are being geared toward new involvement at SMOC from the surrounding community. Plans are being made to coordinate some 4<sup>th</sup> Friday activities with Campus Ministry activities.

## **Presentation of Awards** – Lyn Forester

The Awards Committee selected Jonah Sirota and Kurt Knecht as winners of the 2011 Extraordinary Service Award for their service and leadership of the Space contemplative liturgy on Wednesday evenings.

## **Annual Poem** – Mark Musick

As always, an epic of consistently high quality!

## **Adjournment**

*Susan Musick moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Opal Doerr. Motion Approved: All.*