

**St Bartholomew's Episcopal Church--2023 Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**January 29, 2023**  
**Following 9:00 AM worship service**  
**Meeting opened at 10:12 AM**  
**Hybrid format--In person and via Zoom**

**Opening Prayer:** Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

**Greetings and overview from the Wardens:** Laurie Hyndman  
Laurie thanked the members attending this meeting both in church and by Zoom.

**Reading of the Affirmation by:** Laurie

The affirmation, updated from last year, for all those attending and intending to vote was read by Laurie Hyndman:

“We hereby signify that we are baptized, at least 15 years old, have been worshippers and contributors to the support of the church during the previous three months, and that we agree to maintain this church in accordance with the canons, doctrine, and worship of The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Maine.”

**Warden's Report Summary:** Laurie Hyndman

Laurie cited the incredible work that was done by parishioners prior to Amanda's arrival in January 2022. St. Bart's has continued with that strength to grow as a community and the parish has been enriched by Amanda's presence and sermons. Last year (January of 2022) we started with our new Priest in Charge, Amanda Gerken-Nelson and, after a slight hiatus due to the COVID omicron surge, we have resumed our in-person services. Laurie expressed gratitude for our spiritual leader, music leader and education committee. New and innovative ways to include young families in our church family are being actively pursued—including Sunday school services once a month and an additional youth focused activity another time during the month.

Lay Leadership of all committees met several times last summer and will soon meet again to revisit the goals and tactics envisioned previously and make sure those plans are the right ones for St. Bart's going forward. It was noted that special events typically are planned to occur during the academic year, i.e., September into June. Laurie encouraged parishioners to share their thoughts and input and to consider joining a committee.

Laurie also acknowledged that Arthur Woolverton, John Colianni and Anne Berg have completed their Vestry terms.

**Warden's Addendum to the Annual Report –published previously in the 1.26.23 E-Bulletin:**

As we have the chance, we'd like to make an addition to our published Wardens' message in the Annual Report with a thank you to the staff who departed during the year. Meredith Mazur saw us through the challenging times of the early pandemic, our

year of discernment, and Amanda's first six months as our Priest in Charge. As our office administrator she got the work done, kept us focused, and always had a smile on her face. Dr. John Schuder joined us as our interim organist and choir director as we emerged from remote services, but still under masking constraints. He led the choir with skill and dedication and provided us with beautiful music through August. Michelle Betz became our Youth Education Leader while the challenge of remote worship still existed and worked diligently to bring back in person opportunities. Family responsibilities called her away in August. We are grateful to all three who served our community well for varied terms, but with love and dedication!

**Priest's Report Summary:** Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Amanda stated deep gratitude and appreciation for her role as St. Bart's spiritual leader and stated that in her previous role working for a non-profit, she realized how much she missed being the pastor of a community. As St. Bart's priest in charge, she feels like she "has landed on a soft pillow with a warm welcome" and stated she is honored to be invited to help each of us grow in our respective faith journeys.

Amanda stated she is grateful for the ways she and others have for continuing to seek community and connection. She reviewed appreciation for the Mutual Ministry committee providing support for her as St. Bart's first part time priest; this group has been a place to reflect on honesty and vulnerability and she recognized those committee members serving in this capacity. Amanda reviewed the realities of stepping into the role of a 20 hour per week "part time" position and the navigation that continues in her part time role. She explained that, for now, her hours have been extended to 25 hours per week to make sure she is compensated for the time she spends working. She discussed the myriad of roles that St. Bart's members contribute to this church and how we all are "making it work" with a part time pastor. Amanda reviewed that she would continue to work 25 hours per week, and this represents the *actual time* she is devoting to work, and not for adding hours or responsibilities to her very full schedule.

Amanda extended thanks to those members who were and/or are currently part of the Worship Committee from the interim when St. Bart's was between pastors through the present. Those mentioned included Jan, Jay, Sarah, Chrys, Lu, and Linda. Amanda invited others to volunteer for the Worship Committee.

Amanda praised the Pastoral Care Committee for the myriad of ways they are involved with support for parishioners; she also mentioned visits at Ocean View and that the Pastoral Care Committee provides funeral and memorial services support.

She reflected that it is an honor to work with our folks on the Vestry, Executive Committee, Wardens, and with Lay Leadership. Regarding Lay Leadership, she mentioned that we will continue to include examples of St. Bart's goals and vision setting in our weekly bulletins. She encouraged members to stay involved.

Amanda reminded us that St. Bart's has had a full change of staff since she arrived in January of 2022. She recognized with appreciation staff who have left St. Bart's within the past year remembering our office administrator Meredith Mazur, our interim Music Director Dr. John Schuder and our Youth Education leader Michelle Betz. Amanda expressed gratitude for our current staff-- Music Director Christina Scott Edelen and for our parish administrator Teri Coviello. Both staff members are contributing greatly to our church; Amanda emphasized they are assets to the grace around the learning of new roles.

Also recognized were our Deacon, Corey Walmer and our intern Mary Curlew. They each contribute so much through their skills and experiences to our gatherings and worship. She reminded the congregation that we are Mary's "classroom" even as Mary teaches us during her seminary graduate studies.

Amanda shared her thoughts that in 2023 we all will continue to navigate what "part time ministry" means. She also specified two words will be part of St. Barts' during this next year: "deepen" and "creativity" and that the holy spirit will show us more of their meanings.

#### **Motion/Vote to accept 2022 Annual Meeting minutes:**

Laurie requested a motion to accept the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting. She referenced a parishioner's request that on p. 13 of the annual report that the word *national* be omitted in reference to eucharistic visits. We dropped Protestant a year ago with reference to our name. The minutes will be corrected to reflect this as printed in the 2022 Annual Report. So moved by Dennis Fitzgibbons. Seconded by Harriet Davis. Approved by all (majority).

#### **Presentation of 2023 Budget – Ann Donaghy**

Ann reflected on the budget and that we've had very strong financial results for the second year in a row as evidenced by a very successful financial statement on the plus side of \$14,700; these surplus funds will be dispersed as needed.

#### **Question/Answer period on budget**

Initially, no questions were raised. Ann pointed out that we are ending the year with a large amount of unspent funds, and it is due to our expenses being less than normal in several areas. Of note our diocesan assessment is less for next year, (as a member of the Maine diocese, the diocesan assessments are similar to "membership dues") and the biggest number is based on our operating income from a year ago. A year ago, we were searching for a priest and since we didn't yet have a priest, excess funds were moved to operating accounts. Therefore, our fee to the diocese is somewhat lower now. However, now that we have a priest, that number will shift in the future to a higher fee. We also have not had an education coordinator on the payroll during this academic year. Therefore, the unusual savings have been with the recommendation of the finance committee and approved by the Vestry. This explains the status of our reserves and that we were taking in more revenue than we were/are spending.

Questions asked and discussions included the following:

- The rental income process from Yarmouth Day Care was reviewed and explained in response to a question asked.
- Does St. Bart's event income revenue include the additional funds from our outreach funds? The events that we run that go 100% to outreach are not part of the operating budget. The diocese bases its assessment to us on our operating expenses. If we state that a fundraiser is totally for outreach, then the proceeds are not built into our operating funds report to the diocese.
- There was a question about St. Bart's endowment, and it was explained by Ann that the Endowment Committee is totally separate from the Vestry and thus the church's operating expenses. Ed Simmons is chair of the Endowment Committee. St. Bart's Endowment is still small and there are hopes for it to grow larger; the Endowment Committee will continue to inform the parish about how to assist in the growth of St. Bart's endowment.
- It was asked if the pledge number in our budget is real or is it our goal? Ann answered that it is real, and it has already risen slightly from what was published and may increase more.
- How does St. Bart's treat prepaid pledges? Ann answered that the prepaid pledges given in the previous year (for example 2022) are the considered income for this year (2023).

**Motion/Vote to accept the budget as presented by:** Bill Macleod. Seconded by Arthur Woolverton. Approved by all.

Laurie acknowledged that Vestry members Arthur Wolverton, John Colianni, and Anne Berg have completed their Vestry terms. She thanked them for their many and respective contributions during their time on the Vestry.

**Present slate for Vestry and nominations for delegates to the Maine Diocesan Convention.** Laurie presented the proposed slate of nominees for the Vestry and Delegates to the Diocesan Annual Convention. The nominating slate included:

**Vestry officers:** Senior Warden: Michele Johns, Junior Warden, Laurie Hyndman, Treasurer, Ann Donaghy, Assistant Treasurer Anne Jacobs (for 3-year term), Clerk, Susie Peixotto.

**Returning Vestry members serving at large:**

Deborah Wathen-Finn, Kathy Abernathy, Peter Sillin, Lu Tingley (nominated for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term of 3 years).

**New Vestry members to serve 3-year terms:**

Pal Covie, Mike Perfetti.

**Delegates to Diocesan Annual Convention October 2023**

Chrystena Hahn, Harriet Davis, Anne Jacobs, Sarah Covie (Alternate)

It was asked if there were any other nominations from the floor. There were no additional nominations.

**Motion/Vote to close nominations for Vestry and delegates to the Diocesan Convention** made by Anne Berg. Seconded by Harriet Davis. Approved by All (majority).

**Motion/Vote to accept slate of Vestry members as a single ballot and convention delegates** made by Dan Hudkins. Seconded by Tom Hyndman. Approved by All (majority).

**Motion to accept reports of the committees as published** by Elizabeth Ring, seconded by Harriet Davis. Approved by all. (Of note, voting to accept the reports of the committees in the Annual report is not a requirement at the Annual Meeting.)

**Motion/Vote to adjourn** was made by Peter Hudkins. Seconded by Paule French. Approved by all (majority).

**Meeting adjourned at: 10:57 PM**

**Closing Prayer:** Corey Walmer

**Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan W. Peixotto, Vestry Clerk**

**Attendance notes:**

--54 St. Bart's members attended the Annual meeting "in person"; please refer to the St. Bart's Annual Meeting Register for the signatures of those in attendance.

--**Attendance Via Zoom:** Morris Hancock, Lin Peyton, Joan Tilney