

St. Augustine's in-the-Woods Episcopal Church  
Annual Meeting Minutes, January 22, 2023

**1. Call to Order:**

The Reverend Jennifer B. Cleveland called the meeting to order at 10:55 in Campbell Hall, following a 9:30 combined worship service. After an opening prayer all were welcomed to the Annual Meeting whether in-person or via Zoom, and the presence of a quorum was confirmed (at least thirty Communicants in Good Standing). Those in-person were reminded to sign in and to check the Parish Directory for accuracy. Those attending on Zoom were given instructions on use of the mute feature, the chat feature, and voting procedure.

Total in Attendance: 65 (57 in person plus 8 on Zoom)

Vestry and Staff in Attendance:

Jennifer Cleveland (Rector)	Bernie Barker
Molly Felder (Parish Administrator)	Kathryn Beaumont
Nancy Ruff (Treasurer)	Gail Corell
Joan Johnson (Clerk)	Mic Kisinger
Frank Shirbroun (Rector's Warden)	Stephen Schwarzmman (on Zoom)
Bill Skubi (People's Warden)	

Additional Parishioners in Attendance:

Carol Anderson	Karen Fay	Mathias Pierson
Mark Anderson	Barbara Graham	Zakris Pierson
Kate Anderson	Mickey Grimm	John Porter
Beverly Babson	Arnelle Hall	Robin Porter
Bob Barker	Dick Hall	Brad Portin
Beth Birdsong	Carole Hansen	Curtis Price
Rebecca Birdsong	Jan Hightower	Brian Reid
Patricia Brookes	Janet Holland	Gary Rickert
Ted Brookes	Sue Idso	Kathryn Rickert
Meade Brown	Elaine Ludtke	Albert Rose
Wendy Close	Maureen Masterson	Janis Skubi
Natasha Costeck (and Katie)	David McClellan	Richard Tussey
Ron Costeck	Dorian McGlannan	Carole Tyson
Teresa DiBiase	Ron McKinnell	Laura Valente
Melisa Doss	Celia Metz	Yvonne Werttemberger
Andrea Downs (and Dylan)	Carolyn Otterman	

Parishioners Attending via Zoom:

Eileen Jackson	Diane Jhueck	Sara Ann Lockwood	Mary Vaughn
Dann Jergensen	Jessica Johnson	Chris Lubinski	

## 2. Rector's Remarks:

Rev. Jenny welcomed all to what was probably St. Augustine's 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting (founded in 1952). She acknowledged three New Year's celebrations: Advent (11/27/22), New Year's Day (1/1/23), and Lunar New Year (1/22/23, the year of the Rabbit) and charged us to "meet with courage the challenges of this world". She said she was looking forward to a "slow reading" of the Annual Reports and to learning more about the activities at St. Augustine's, her new Parish home. Her written report is printed in the Annual Report.

## 3. Approval of 2022 Minutes:

**MOTION:** that the minutes of the January 16, 2022, Annual Meeting as presented in the Annual Report be approved

1<sup>st</sup> – Celia Metz

2<sup>nd</sup> - Kathryn Beaumont

**Passed**

## 4. Rector's Warden's Remarks:

A. Frank Shirbroun's full report was published in the Annual Report. He gave thanks for Bill Skubi for his service and accomplishments as People's Warden, to Rev. Jenny for her fairness, inclusiveness, and compassion, and to his wife Teresa DiBiase for being a willing search committee and rector's warden "widow" and for her wise counsel.

B. In September 2022 when the Search Committee met with the Vestry to present their recommendation for rector, Frank quoted Psalm 127: "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain." Frank asked the parishioners of St. Augustine's to continue to trust that the Lord will help us build God's house in this place.

C. Focal points in 2023 will be our music ministry, adult formation, and community outreach.

## 5. Vestry Elections:

The Nominating Committee recommended Elaine Ludtke, Mark Anderson, and Brad Portin to serve three-year terms on the Vestry and Maureen Masterson to complete an unfulfilled one-year term. There were no further nominations from the floor, which per the church by-laws needed to be submitted no later than two hours prior to the start of the meeting.

**MOTION:** that the slate presented for Vestry be approved

1st – Meade Brown

2<sup>nd</sup> – Mic Kisinger

**Passed**

## 6. Election of Alternate Delegates to Diocesan Convention:

The Nominating Committee nominated Jan Hightower and Curtis Price to serve three-year terms as Alternate/Delegate to Convention. There were no further nominations from the floor.

**MOTION:** that Jan Hightower and Curtis Price be elected to serve three-year terms as Alternate/Delegate to Diocesan Convention

1st – Carole Hansen

2<sup>nd</sup> -

**Passed**

Rev. Jenny thanked Frank for serving as Rector's Warden in 2022 and announced that she has asked him to remain on in 2023.

## **7. Treasurer's Report:**

**A.** Treasurer Nancy Ruff's full report was published in the Annual Report. She gave thanks to those who came before us, leaving us with assets and no mortgage.

**B.** Nancy explained the 2023 budget, which was previously approved by the Vestry, and called for questions.

**C.** We are making no-interest loans from our Quasi-Endowment Fund to ourselves in order to fund a full-time rector. Repayment of those loans must begin in five years.

**D.** Meade Brown, Stewardship Chair, reported that about 80% of St. Augustine's members pledge.

## **8. People's Warden's Remarks:**

**A.** Bill Skubi's full report was published in the Annual Report. He gave thanks to the Alder Guild for their work on the church grounds and to Merrick Lockwood for being a capable and willing fix-it person.

**B.** The newly re-established Buildings and Grounds Committee will consist of Mark Anderson, Barbara Graham, Art Taylor, Gary Rickert, Bill Skubi, and Brian Reid. They will be surveying work that needs to be done, prioritizing jobs, and creating a ten-year maintenance schedule.

## **9. Questions and Conversations:**

**A.** The topic of "No guns in God's house" was discussed and will be addressed further by the Vestry.

**B.** The need for child care on South Whidbey was raised and discussed.

**C.** Gail Corell announced that the church kitchen has been approved as a commercial kitchen and has received a permanent food license.

## **10. Litany of Thanks:**

**A.** Frank acknowledged Molly Felder, our amazing Parish Administrator, who received a standing ovation.

**B.** Rev. Jenny gave thanks and recognition to the many ministries and events at St. Augustine's and to the involvement of all parishioners. More about these ministries can be read in the Annual Report.

## **11. Adjournment:**

There being no further business the 2023 Annual Meeting was adjourned with a sending prayer at 12:15.

Submitted by Joan M. Johnson, Vestry Clerk

