

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of
The Episcopal Church of the Mediator
on February 4, 2024

- I. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer:** Reverend Darlene Kuhn called the meeting to order immediately after the service at 11:45 a.m. with a prayer.
- II. **Establishment of a Quorum:** There were twenty-five people present which established a Quorum. (Quorum = twelve or more parishioners of good standing)
- III. **Election of the Secretary of the Annual Meeting:** Tim French made a motion to elect Marilee Roth as secretary for the Annual Meeting. Donna Mitchell seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of acclamation.
- IV. **Proof of Notice of Meeting:** Tim French made a motion that this meeting was announced thirty days in advance in the December Christmas letter followed by weekly notices, in the Thursday eblast, at the Sunday announcements, and posted on the website. Marilee Roth seconded the motion. There were no objections to the motion therefore the motion passed by a vote of acclamation.
- V. **Approval of Previous Annual Meeting Minutes:** Ruth Merrifield moved to accept the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Jan Anderson. The motion passed by a vote of acclamation.
- VI. **Vestry & Delegate Elections for 2024 (*for Election ** Non-voting):** Reverend Darlene Kuhn read the following Vestry and Delegate elections for 2024:
Tim French – Co-Warden and Lay Delegate (May 2023 – January 2025)
Marilee Roth – Co-Warden and Lay Delegate (January 2023 – January 2026)
Barbara Ryan – Vestry Secretary (January 2023 – January 2026)
**Peggy Lefebvre – Treasurer 2017 (Perpetual)
Joanne Sims – Vestry Member (January 2023 – January 2026)
Judy Joseph – Vestry Member (January 2022 – January 2025)
Mary White – Seasonal Vestry Member (January 2022 – January 2025)
**Donna Mitchell – Alternate Lay Delegate (January 2024 – December 2024)
**Jennifer Frechette – Postulant for Holy Orders in the Diaconate

There were no new nominations from the floor. Ruth Merrifield motioned to accept the Vestry and Delegate elections for 2024. Jan Anderson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of acclamation.
- VII. **Treasurer’s Report:** Peggy Lefebvre reported that the pledges and regular giving exceeded the budget by \$19,695.00. Fundraising exceeded the budget

by \$4,063.00 and the investment income (interest) exceeded the budget by \$3,662.00. The loose offerings exceeded the budget by \$2,036.00. Total income received over budget by \$32,250.00. Expenses were all in line with the budget. Building and Grounds exceeded the budget by \$14,258.00 primarily due to the major repair cost of the sprinkler system of \$12,206.50. Expenses were over budget by a total of \$12,085.00. We were projecting a budget deficit of (\$28,550.00) with the \$12,085.00 expense that we had not expected but we ended the year with a final deficit for all spending of (\$6,339.24). Tim French mentioned that we originally had a projected budget deficit of around (\$40,000.00) in the middle of the year and ended up at around (\$6,000.00), which was a great accomplishment. Moving forward, there is \$90 in a positive balanced budget. Reverend Darlene Kuhn going to part-time contributes to a balanced budget for 2024. Reverend Darlene Kuhn reminded the parish that a part-time rector **does not** mean a part-time church thanks to the work we all do. Tim French mentioned that we have a healthy operating budget and then asked for questions from the floor. There was a question asking for verification that there will be a review of Reverend Richard Emrich's current agreement to lead worship twice a month at the end of six months.

- VIII. **Election of the Treasurer for 2024:** Peggy Lefebvre is continuing as Parish Treasurer.
- IX. **Life of the Church – Rector's Report:** See the report in the Annual Meeting packet.
- X. **Reports:** See individual reports in the Annual Meeting packet. Mother Darlene spoke to the fact that our parish has been engaged. She noted that everyone at the meeting and others have done incredible work and that we are not a small church but that we are the church that could. And everyone wears multiple hats. The only comments to the reports in the Annual Report Package was from Marilee Roth concerning an error on page 27 in the Junior Warden's report where the word "elevate" was used in the third line down instead of the proper word of "alleviate." Linda Anderson made a motion to accept all the reports. Judy Joseph seconded the motion. The motion was passed by acclamation.
- XI. **Business from the Floor:**
 - a. Garth Taylor gave a \$20,000.00 Endowment Fund to support the arts programs. \$1,000.00 is to go directly to our music program this year. Linda Anderson established an Edward Jones account for this money. We can always add to the funds.

- b. Concerning the merger between the Eastern and Western Dioceses of Michigan, Marilee Roth made the following motion: “I move that the Episcopal Church of the Mediator in Harbert send our convention delegation to the special joint diocesan convention on Saturday, March 16th to vote in favor of the Building Bridges Steering Committee’s recommendation for junction of the Eastern and Western Dioceses of Michigan by voting “yes” on the Agreement for Union so that the two dioceses will become one diocese. Jeannine Totzke seconded the motion.

The floor was opened to questions and comments. The first question was confusion about the current diocesan structure in Michigan with the dioceses of Eastern, Western, Michigan (the Detroit area with Bishop Bonnie Perry), and the Upper Peninsula. The juncture being voted on is only between Eastern and Western Michigan and does not include the Upper Peninsula or the Diocese of Michigan. The work of the Building Bridges Committee has been going on for about seven years. There was more general discussion and a few questions concerning the merger. Once the discussion ended, a vote was taken, and the motion passed.

- c. Jan Anderson explained that the advertising for Harbor Country and for Art Attack have been completed. She also informed the congregation that St. John’s of Grand Haven was inspired by our arts program and have started their own arts program.
- d. There was an explanation as to the creation and purpose of the Fundraising Committee. Tim French offered to pick up rummage for the French Market.
- e. CCD – Reverend Darlene Kuhn briefly explained what the CCD is and that she, Jennifer Frechette, and Kris Veldheer plan to attend for the second portion of the program in June of 2024. There will be more focused information about the purpose and goals of the CCD relayed soon. St. Augustine’s and St. Paul’s churches have put a call for a full-time rector for the two parishes. It will be a requirement for all new rector’s and members of their parishes to be a part of the CCD program. We need to start thinking about who we want to send to the program in the future.
- f. There was no more business from the floor.

XII. **Closing in Prayer and Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m. with the singing of the recessional hymn and the blessing.