

St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Flagler County

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

February 13, 2022

The meeting was opened at 10:41 am with prayer by The Rev. Canon Robert P. Goolsby, Rector. The meeting took place within the context of Holy Eucharist. The Rector and Senior Warden reports were given during The Peace.

Rector's Report

We have remained faithful and steadfast as a Christ-centered parish. We have had our challenges and these will continue for a while longer, but more importantly, so will our faith and trust!

Here are some examples of living out our faith and trust from 2021:

- We welcomed 14 new members
- Stewardship and generosity increased. Our average pledge for 2022 is \$2,382
- Our Outreach partnerships in the community remain strong
- Community engagement (e.g. Pet Blessing, Trunk or Treat, etc.) resumed
- Four baptisms and eight confirmations
- Ministries starting meeting again
- After “freezing” the Vestry for one year, we have four new candidates for 2022
- We welcomed Father Andy Zeman from Connecticut to our parish as Father Horace Johnson moved home to Connecticut. Fr. Andy has been a blessing to St. Thomas and to me.

Our Vision

We completed a Vision event led by our consultant, Paul Bruno, from the Diocese of Central Diocese. The theme “When More of the Same is No Longer an Option” makes known to us our need to reassess our mission and identity due to the pandemic shutdown. Many of our ministries look different now, as many people no longer serve where they used or not at all.

Our Stewardship

Ours is an incredible generous and understanding congregation. We have been and continue to be in a challenging and frustrating time. Yet, we have seen generous giving continue. Still, about 70% of our membership are giving less than \$1,000 annually. I challenge 70% of those 70% to give \$100 each month to St. Thomas.

Our annual budget for 2022 reflects a shortfall of (\$40,000). We have already received checks to help alleviate that. I challenge you to join me in giving \$200 toward eliminating it. Please write the word “special” on your check so it will be applied correctly.

Finally, there are three things I want to share with you:

1. If you are in town and healthy, come to church!
2. Make sure your gifts have your name on them so they are posted correctly; and
3. Look at where your gifts/talents are. What ministries can you serve with them?

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Rector's Report (continued)

I am so grateful for you, this congregation, and this wonderful parish. I appreciate the dedication, hard work and faith of St. Thomas' members. We will continue our journey together to grow closer to God through our Lord Jesus Christ, seeking together his will and purpose for our lives and the mission and ministry of St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Senior Warden's Report

Please consider participating in ministries here at St. Thomas. Many of them have lost members. Think about where your talents and interest might lead you.

We need a Kitchen Committee!

If you change your e-mail address or other contact information, please let the office know. If you don't regularly use e-mail, let us know that so we can remove it from the service we use. We will think you're receiving weekly notices from the church when you're not.

Vestry

We have four (4) members going off the Vestry this year and I ask that they please stand: Pam Williams, Ben O'Kelley, Kathleen McCullough and Cindy Mitchell (me). Pam and Ben completed terms for vacancies. Jadeen Wintz has also completed her three-year term as Youth Representative. Thank you all for your service.

Will the new Vestry candidates please stand: Bee Davis, Carole MacDonald, Ben O'Kelley and Tom Witherspoon. I make the motion that these candidates be accepted to the Vestry. Second by Bill Schwartz. A vote of acclamation was taken by applause in person, and by vote stating "Aye" or "Yea" online during the livestreamed service. There was no opposition. The Vestry has been accepted.

All Vestry members were asked to come forward and were introduced by the year their terms are ending. Following this presentation of the Vestry to the congregation, Fr. Bob commissioned the new members with prayer.

Rick Cabrera expressed thanks to Cindy Mitchell for her three (3) years of service as Senior Warden and reviewed a list of the emergencies she dealt with beginning with a flood on her very first day. He presented a gift on behalf of Fr. Bob and the Vestry. This was followed by personal thanks from Fr. Bob. The congregation responded with an enthusiastic round of applause.

Fr. Bob introduced Jodie Bevel as the new Senior Warden which was met with applause.

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Ralph Yearwood gave a brief overview of the 179th Convention held in January. A motion was made by Bill Schwartz to extend Ralph Yearwood's service as a convention delegate by one year. Second by Ed Ruddy. Approved by acclamation. This year, Ralph Yearwood and Carole MacDonald were delegates with Dorothy Thompson as alternate. This year the alternate is Jodie Bevel. The Senior Warden will serve as the alternate each year. Ralph's term expires in 2023, Carole's in 2024 and Dorothy's in 2025.

A motion was made by Ben O'Kelley to approve the convention delegates. Second by Audrey Williams. Acclamation by applause. Commissioning of the delegates performed by Fr. Bob with prayer.

The meeting was closed at 11:29 a.m. and the service concluded with Holy Communion.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L. Snedeker

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Vestry Secretary