

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Ellisville, MO
Annual Meeting – 2024
Sunday, January 28th, 2024
Unapproved minutes

Meeting began:11:05

Opening Prayer by Mother Leslie

Vestry candidates and Convention Delegate nominations opened from the floor. No additional members nominated. Nominations were closed.

Minutes From 2023 Annual Meeting – Motion to accept minutes as corrected (spelling & grammar errors noted after printing) moved by Jeanne King, 2nd by John Limbaugh. All in favor, none opposed. Minutes approved.

Elections for new Vestry candidates: Chelsea Brewer, Nancy Scheibal and Scott Shearer. Motion by Larry Cornelius, second by John Limbaugh to accept the slate of candidates as presented.

Junior Warden Report – Becky McCoy

Becky shared some highlights of this past year; we have grown our ministries more than any other year in the past, all while lowering the deficit in an amazing way. She is very proud of what we have accomplished this year and is looking forward to continuing to do amazing things here at St. Martins.

Senior Warden Report – Greg Allen

I've enjoyed my first year back on the St. Martin's Vestry after serving on the Investment Committee for several years. It has been an honor to serve as the Senior Warden for 2023. I've become a little more involved in various aspects of our church and I am amazed at the efforts of so many people to ensure St. Martins operates smoothly each day. I am similarly amazed and humbled at the efforts of so many parishioners to help various people in need within our community. This report is filled with pages summarizing our members' various efforts both inside and outside our church.

Our Vestry has worked hard in 2023 to support all of our various Ministries while balancing our income and expenses and will continue to do so in 2024. Thanks to the generosity of our members throughout the year, we exceeded our budgeted income by nearly \$51,000. Our expenses finished under budget by over \$17,000, resulting in narrowing our budgeted gap from approximately \$100,000 to \$32,000. We expect to continue this trend in 2024 by managing our costs and encouraging members to contribute as they are able. Additionally, we will continue to pursue our efforts to investigate options to generate additional income from further utilization of our facilities.

I would like to thank the Vestry Members, Mother Leslie, Page Andersen and Loretta Go for their time this year to share ideas, debate options and make the best decisions possible to support St. Martins values. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any Vestry member to ask questions, share concerns and offer ideas.

I look forward to a blessed 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Andersen, Senior Warden

Capital Campaign Steve Brunkhorst, Chair

Steve reviewed several highlights of the Capital Campaign. The Together in Faith Capital Campaign report is found towards the end of the printed bulletin. All of the monies collected for the Together in Faith Capital Campaign has been spent or put into a reserve, to be used for future Capital expenses, as approved by the Vestry.

Short discussion of looking towards a possible future Capital Campaign, as this is how a healthy Parish has regular (every 5 - 10 years) Capital Campaigns.

2023 Financial Report and Presentation of 2024 Budget – Page Andersen

Page reviewed the information included in the Treasurer's report in detail over the past several years. The 2024 budget shown at the end of this report was approved by consensus during the January 16th, 2024 vestry meeting. We ended up at the end of 2023, over \$50,000 over what we had budgeted because of the huge efforts of so many parishioners. Our deficit budget prediction was to have been over \$100,000 but at the end of the year, we ended at just over \$32,000 in deficit which is a decrease by nearly 70%.

Questions from the floor. Discussion of some bequeathed and additional, unrestricted gifts which were given to St. Martin's at the end of the year and how we are considering best use of these funds. Inclusion of the weekly financials in the Weekly bulletin again has been much appreciated this year.

2024 summary and review. Discussion that "clergy and staff" expenses also pays for Ministries as well as the Diocesan pledge, because that all flows into the ministries which we support through our Parish, the Diocese and the Church.

Questions from the floor: storm damage payment and how we've been able to use the funds available to us.

With the additional, unanticipated funds we've received in the last quarter, it is possible we might not need to pull from the SMiF to meet expenses in 2024, which would be the first time in nearly 20 years, that we will not need to pull from the SMiF account on a regular basis.

Discussion of a new Money Market account, the Investment Fund and how we've managed to gain a regular return on those funds, to take advantage of market fluctuations.

Question of how much we might need to pay for a new Sexton. The current market rate would be about \$15.00 - \$20.00 per hour, at anywhere from 10 - 35 hours per week, so minimum of 25 hours which would necessitate approximately \$18,000 to pay for a part time Sexton, to alleviate some of the hours Lincoln typically puts in at St. Martin's. Leslie is not comfortable bringing on a new, permanent staff member with all of the cuts we still face regularly.

Question of how many pledging Units we currently have: approximately 70, with many pledges increased, with thanks from the Vestry and Mother Leslie. There were approximately 100 - 120 pledge cards sent out.

Please feel free to call, text or email Page with any thoughts, questions or concerns. With your help, I am confident that we will continue to be ***A Beacon of Christ's Love, Spirit-Fed, Serving Others.***

Presentation of the 2024 Budget - Page Andersen and Mother Leslie Scoopmire

The Vestry approved this budget to present at the Annual Meeting. Consensus approval of the proposed budget by those present at the meeting.

Questions and Answers – Mother Leslie, Executive Committee

Steve Brunkhorst spoke to the need to find a Sexton to fill in to relieve some of the time Lincoln puts in at church. Many thanks to both Lincoln and MaryJane Drake, for their steadfast support of “all things St. Martin’s”; we truly would not be where we are today without all that they do to support our church.

Closing Prayer, Poem, Blessing and Dismissal – Mother Leslie
Poem by Mary Oliver - Making the House ready for the Lord.

Meeting ended at 12:03

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Montgomery
Clerk