

FAITH EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
POULSBO, WASHINGTON

Annual Meeting of January 22, 2017

Rev. Craig Vocelka opened the annual meeting with prayer. There were 26 members of the congregation present.

**Motion 1**

Sylvia Palmer made a motion to approve last year's minutes, Connie Aurand seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**Fr. Craig reviewed the accomplishments and highlights of 2016**

Craig started as vicar of Faith Church in January of 2016, and Faith Church began its new ministry in Poulsbo in March—for some it was a homecoming of sorts, for others a new place of worship, and for all a new beginning.

Maundy Thursday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, marked the beginning of Faith's worship in Poulsbo. Bishop Rickel and his wife joined us for Good Friday services. We celebrated Easter in our new home. In June, Bishop Rickel returned along with friends and other clergy as Faith hosted a celebration of Mutual Ministry. Fr. Craig reminded us of our Bishop's message. Bishop Rickel said that we can return to a building, but that we are called to create something new. We cannot walk into the past. There will be changes and there will be moments of anxiety and other emotions, but his hope is that we offer ourselves as a gift to the community in which Faith lives. He cautioned not to live for our building, but to treat it as a "base camp." Our bishop reminded us that we need to engage with the world and that "[w]e always start anew." And Fr. Craig reminded us that "our call as Christians is one of action in love."

In 2016, Faith celebrated life and death with the joyful birth and baptism of Grayson Trevor Mace, and the death of Dick Mace, a long-time parishioner and friend.

Other celebrations included our parish bar-b-que in September, worship together on Thanksgiving Eve, and special liturgies during the Advent season, Christmas vigil, and Christmas Day celebrations.

We've also been blessed with growth. In Kingston, our average attendance was about 28, and now it's about 40. Growth can bring growing pains, but with prayer and worship, we move forward together.

**Stewardship**

In 2016 we had 19 pledges totaling \$40,000. In 2017, we have 19 pledges totaling \$34,000. 2016 finished with a \$10,181 deficit, and our 2017 budget faces a deficit of \$9000. Last year saw a number of one-time expenses, and that pushed the deficit up. The change from renting to stewards of a building will incur additional expenses for 2017 such as installing a new furnace that is needed for the parish hall.

Beside our weekly pledges, different types of stewardship such as gifts of talent, time, and legacy giving was discussed. Many in our parish are on fixed incomes, but we were encouraged to pledge, if possible, so that we can budget more accurately. Craig presented our 2017 budget.

### **Motion 2**

Sylvia Palmer made a motion to accept our 2017 budget, Paulette Waggoner seconded, and the congregation approved the motion.

### **Gratitude and Appreciation**

A number of people were thanked for their gifts of time and talent. They included the following:

- Brenda Toth and Amanda Mace were presented flowers in appreciation for their time served on the Bishop's Committee
- The people of Faith who donated their time to beautify the grounds on numerous days
- Leslie and Carl Sandberg for their dedication and work in keeping our buildings clean and safe
- Brenda Toth, Ralph Flewelling and all who prepare our worship space
- Marcia for her music and Louise Kernaghan for serving as our cantor during Advent
- Annamarie Lavieri, Connie Aurand, Brenda Toth, Jean Hart, Sylvia Palmer, Paulette Waggoner, and Fred Pomeranz for leading us in our Prayers of the People and serving as lectors
- Bob Kernaghan and Ralph Flewelling for assisting at the altar and serving as Eucharistic Ministers on Sundays.
- Connie Aurand and Linda Skinner for helping with communion visits and keeping Craig posted of those sick and in the hospital
- The Bishop's Committee for their work and dedication to Faith
- The people of Faith who have contributed their unique gifts in some way to our church.

### **Special Recognition**

Ed Skinner's was awarded the *Ky Chen "No Problem" Award* by Bishop Rickel. This award is presented to recognize outstanding employees who exhibit enthusiasm and team spirit. Although Ed is not an employee of Faith, our Junior Warden has donated hundreds of hours to our church. He was the one, along with help from his crew of Merry Men—Bob Kernaghan, Fred Pomeranz, and Carl Sandberg—who has made sure that our buildings are in good repair now and will be in the future.

### **A word from our Senior Warden**

Linda Skinner said that she was honored to serve as our Senior Warden. She calls Faith, "the little church that could." Linda has been invaluable as we transitioned into this building. She is our intermediate between Faith and our renters, New Life, and she continues to work for the betterment of our church.

### **New Business**

There will be new challenges and new opportunities in 2017. Our income does not presently cover our expenses. Our bylaws need to be updated and revised. Our kitchen is close to completion, but there is still work to do. George Daniels volunteered to design and maintain a website for us, and Deb Hurd is starting our Faith library. Fr. Craig reminded us that in the face of our challenges, we need to remember Jesus' words asking us not to be afraid and to trust that he will be with us always.

Craig met with the state tax person on Thursday March 19th, and it looks as if we will be approved for tax-exempt status on our property. This saves about \$9000. The last piece of information we need to provide to the state is a copy of our contract with New Life, but that shouldn't present a problem.

This year's delegates to the annual convention are Jim and Connie Aurand. Bob and Louise Kernaghan were elected as alternates, and it is the tradition at Faith, they will attend the 2018 convention as delegates.

Two vacancies on the Bishop's Committee opened when Brenda Toth and Amanda Aurand cycled off their three-year term. Three nominees volunteered for the two spots—Diane Foster, Annamarie Lavieri, and Fred Pomeranz. Annamarie and Fred were selected by ballot to be approved by Bishop Rickel. If approved, our Bishop's Committee members for 2017 are Linda Skinner (Senior Warden), Ed Skinner (Junior Warden) Kevin Mace, Louise Kernaghan, Annamarie Levairi, and Fred Pomeranz.

Our church secretary position, previously held by Sharon Parker, was split into several parts. All positions are unpaid this year, and that will save us money. Jim Aurand, Chris Steel, and Rachel Strohmeyer will be our church pledge secretaries, Louise Kernaghan has taken on some secretarial and treasurer functions in collaboration with Fr. Craig, Jim Aurand and Linda Skinner, and Deb Hurd will take and distribute minutes at meetings. Father Craig will continue doing the bulletin, and Connie Aurand will continue with the newsletter.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer led by Connie Aurand.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Hurd