

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of St. Bartholomew's Congregation – January 31, 2016 Bemidji, Minnesota

The meeting opened with prayer by Carol Porterfield-Milowski at 11:32 am.

Twenty-nine members of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church were present for the meeting.

Motion by Sally Montebello/Art Gulette: That minutes from 2015 annual meeting be approved. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report – given by Carrie Jessen. • Our congregation had generally a good financial report for 2015. The renovations to the undercroft and upstairs bathroom have been fully paid for (\$24,377) and balances in all accounts are fairly healthy. Budget for 2016 is comparable to 2015 budget except that a new copier in the office is needed and is budgeted for. Carrie's term as treasurer will end after this coming year. **Motion:** Jeanne Gulette/Larry Stember: To accept 2016 budget as presented. **Motion carried.**

Addendum to Treasurer's Report: A pledge drive will be carried out in the next month or so as we did not have a pledge drive last fall.

Various reports were given next. Most of the information can be found in reports submitted by the committees and collected together in the packet for the Annual Meeting.

Episcopal Church Women Report – given by Helen Winge. • Helen expressed the need for more members to take part in ECW as it remains a very active group.

Outreach Committee Report – highlights given by Betsy Hering.

Worship Committee Report – given by Carol PM. • The Worship Committee and the Shared Ministry Team are now melded into a single committee/group. Jeanne G. has worked tirelessly on behalf of this group, with scheduling and altar guild tasks. We applaud her efforts and thank her.

Food Shelf Report – given by Art G. • St. Bart's keeps up with churches having much larger congregations than ours in carrying out tasks at the Food Shelf.

Bemidji Community Table – given by Jeanne G. • The BCT was formerly called the Soup Kitchen.

Junior Warden's Report – given by Bob Montebello. • The grounds and building are taken care of by many volunteers from the congregation whom Bob thanks. • The undercroft is a much cleaner place than it had been for many years and the remodeling has been well-received for the most part.

Sunday School Report – highlights given by Carol Carpenter.

Historian Report – given by Carol C. • Carol has collected pictures and documents and other artifacts from St. Bart's past and put them into a scrapbook. Also, a new 2016 Church Directory has been put together.

Theology for Breakfast Report – highlights given by Carol PM.

Pastoral Care Report – given by Carol PM. • This is an area of critical need in St. Bart's as Kathy Schmit has had to curtail her fine work in this area of our church life in the past year. Carol posed the question: Is there a pastor with counseling training in the area that could be in our church office (or available to talk on the phone) one afternoon a week?

Diocesan 2015 Convention and Northwest Mission Area Reports – given by Carol C. • Election of delegates to the convention and the mission is for three-year terms, according to the Church Canons. Julia Plum is resigning from her role as a delegate for St. Bart’s.

Bishop’s Committee Report – given by Carol PM. • “Staffing the altar” is a major task that the BC has been carrying out in the past year. Once a service leader has been found for a given Sunday, then members of the Altar Committee work with that individual on the liturgical planning for the day. We will have a continuing need for supply clergy in our immediate future. • ECMN doesn’t seem very willing to help us out with our staffing needs and other needs (this feeling pursuant to our December meeting with Karen Olson from the ECMN office). Carol will continue to stay in touch with Karen – will send a written response to her – looking for help for us in our straits. If not helping us out with a “Regional Priest,” could they help us find/remunerate supply clergy?

The **Nomination** of Carol Carpenter as a delegate to Diocesan Convention and member of the Northwest Mission Area was made by Jack Buhn/Sally Montebello. **Nomination carried.** The **Nomination** of Claire Buhn as the **Alternate to the Convention** was made by Bob M./Eric L. **Nomination carried.**

Nomination of Julie Loxtercamp to the Bishop’s Committee by Tom J./Carol C. – **carried.**

Nomination of Jack Buhn to the BC by Bob M./Penny Olson – **carried.**

Tom J. and Bob M. agreed to “reup” to the BC; Eric L. has one more year to serve. A unanimous ballot was **Moved** by Betsy H./Carol C. – **Carried.** Carrie Jessen mentioned again that she will serve just one more year as the treasurer.

Miscellaneous: Carol PM - Thanks for Julie Loxtercamp for stepping in and helping out with special music. • Betsy H. – Betsy read a dedication to the St. Bart’s membership from a book that she and Kent have put together about their fund-raising bicycle tour of the southern states from last summer.

More new business: “Hearing none we stand adjourned.” – Carol PM at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eric E. Lund, Clerk.