

**Church of Our Redeemer  
Annual Meeting In-person and on Zoom  
Sunday, January 29, 2023**

**Minutes: DRAFT**

**Modified:**

Presiding: Interim Rector, The Rev. Ginger Solaqua  
Clerk: Cathy Burns  
Parliamentarian: Charles Hornig

The meeting began at 9:50 with Murray's (senior warden) Call to Order, followed by Reverend Ginger's address, and a celebration of Eucharist in the sanctuary. The address began at 9:51 AM.

Reverend Ginger began with a prayer and then related to us that in times of stress or anxiety, she looks for a word to help her through difficult times. She uses the mantra "I can do anything for 10 minutes". She went on to quote a passage from Corinthians in which St. Paul said, "We shall be changed." Whether we like it or not, we shall be changed. When things get to be too much, it is helpful to recite this passage.

Reverend Ginger went back through some of Kate Ekrem's previous annual meeting sermons. She found it so enlightening to learn just how much change we at Redeemer have experienced since 2020, primarily due to the pandemic. Many plans have been set aside and she said that so much change is not easy, especially when it happens all at once. It is hard to let go of what once was but we have not done that. It is common for many parishes to experience disengagement in times of transition. We have not disengaged. Instead, we have followed Jesus by loving one another. We've allowed ourselves to be changed by God. God is at work among us. Ginger feels that we are ready and energized for what's next.

She went on to say that God has given us what we need for what is to come but she advised us to try to keep it simple and don't get lost in the details. Keep it simple. Choose a word or phrase to turn to, to help cut thru all the noise and when you are overwhelmed or anxious. Reminds you of who God wants us to be. This is a wonderful parish. We are walking in faith and commitment. We have what we need.

Amen.

After the Eucharist, the meeting moved to the Great Hall for a shared breakfast for those staying for the meeting in-person. A slide show, created by Randy Bowlby, was shown that included pictures from many events we shared in 2022.

The meeting was recalled to order on Zoom and in-person at 12:06 PM by Senior Warden, Murray Daniels. Reverend Ginger Solaqua shared a prayer. Murray gave an overview of the meeting including an orientation to the hybrid model. We had 17 members on-line, 2 in the sanctuary, and 43 present in the Great Hall.

**Quorum Certification**

A quorum was certified by the clerk and a **motion** was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting.

## **Presentation from the Search Committee**

Tony Johnson presented the work of the search committee. He reviewed the steps that were taken to create our parish profile. He mentioned the various forms of information gathering the committee used to help them create an accurate picture of the parish. These included a survey, open forums, youth discussions, for example. As of the date of this meeting, the committee has a draft document in which they introduce candidates to the parish, what qualities in a rector are we looking for, and what is it we do as a parish? What values do we bring to the table, what do we do for fellowship within and beyond the church and what do we do for fun? The document includes our dreams for after COVID and our key challenges including finances, and property issues. The committee is working for finalizing the document to obtain approval from the vestry and the diocese.

In response to a question, Tony explained that the committee expects the draft to be complete and approved in March, with posting by April 1. We hope to have a call for a rector by the fall.

## **Vote to Empower the Vestry to Select Rector**

Our Constitution states that the parish will elect a rector UNLESS the parish elects to have the Vestry make that decision on behalf of the parish. Murray feels that our search committee is highly qualified to act in the best interests of the parish.

**Motion:** to approve to authorize the Vestry, in consultation with the Search Committee, to elect the next Rector of the Church of Our Redeemer as outlined in Section 8.2 of the Parish Constitution.

**VOTE:** The motion was passed with unanimous consent.

## **2022 Nominating Committee Report**

The committee worked for several months on the slate. Thank you to the members of the committee: John Bernhard (Chair), Susan Burkhardt, Haynes Porter, Karen Schragle, and Dan Voss

## **The Election of Officers, Vestry and Deanery Representatives**

The following nominees for officers, vestry, and deanery representatives:

**Senior Warden:** Murray Daniels

**Junior Warden:** Sarah Conrad

**Treasurer:** Winthrop Brown

**Clerk:** Cathy Burns

**Vestry for 3-year term:** Kathleen Mirani

**Vestry for 1-year term:** Cassie Bowlby

**Youth Vestry Member for 1-year term:**

**Deanery Representatives for 1-year term:** Mike Webb, Connie Parish, Sarah Klein

Haynes Porter was added to the slate of Deanery Representatives.

Cassie Bowlby has agreed to extend and serve one additional year on the Vestry as she serves as liaison with the Search Committee.

The following vestry members will continue to serve their elected terms and are not standing for election this year:

2-year term: Linda Kukolich

Discussion:

- Rory Fox asked if a youth member could serve as a Deanery Representative. The answer was yes. Kathy Mockett nominated Rory to serve as Deanery Rep. She declined. Haynes Porter accepted nomination to be added to the slate for Deanery Representatives.
- Any candidates from the floor? Send names to Charles Hornig, Parliamentarian. None sent.

**Motion:** to approve the slate of candidates for officers, vestry members, and deanery representatives as presented by the Nominating Committee with addition of Haynes Porter as Deanery Representative.

**VOTE:** The motion was passed with unanimous consent.

### **Leadership Report and Financial Presentation**

**Warden's Report and Budget Presentation** (Murray Daniels, Winthrop Brown)

Murray:

Thank you to those who have served on Vestry – Susan Burkhardt and Haynes Porter, and to members of the Regathering, Tech Team, Worship Leaders, RAT teams.

Winthrop Brown presented an overview of the 2022 finances. We projected a surplus of \$8,700. Our income was up due to a fairly large unrestricted gift, and extra income from the rectory which was not in the initial budget. Some increased expenses in health care costs, higher utility expenses with slightly lower costs on programs. We ended up with a \$39,000 surplus last year.

Our Stewardship line shows a 3 year trend with pledges going down (current total 68) but the amount is going up. Overall, things look okay here.

2023 budget shows a significant deficit this coming year. Parishioner offerings and fund income primarily contribute to personnel expenses while rental income covers our building expenses. There are 2 reasons for this large deficit.

First, we rent space in the steeple to cell companies, Sprint and T-mobile. T-mobile has purchased Sprint so Sprint is pulling out of their contract with us. Additionally, we are not planning to rent the rectory beginning in August but we will continue paying a housing allowance for Ginger until the new rector comes. This said, we have the money in our reserves to ride this out. Other potential sources of income are being researched.

A Closing Prayer was offered by Mother Emily.

A **motion** was made and seconded and approved by **unanimous vote** to adjourn the annual meeting at 12:18 pm.

Submitted by,

Cathy Burns, Clerk

Meeting Attendees:

Bill Vogele  
Murray Daniels  
Cathy Burns  
Christopher A Huggins  
Karen Schragle  
Erica Brotschi  
Ginny Neumann  
Debbie LeBlanc  
Lee Noel Chase  
Sara B. Chase  
Cassie Bowlby  
Sarah Conrad  
Winthrop Brown  
Steve Burns  
Karen Daniels  
Jim Neumann  
Bethany Friesner  
Janet Needham

Charles Hornig  
Kalpana Dulipsingh  
Ian Fox  
Evelyn Haussein  
Alix Fox  
Katharine A Mockett  
Jim Neumann  
Linda Kukolich  
Susanne Dillman  
Connie Parrish  
Randy Bowlby  
Carolyn Wortman  
Julie Schaffner  
Sam Stevens  
Sean Fullerton  
Mike Webb  
Peter Koso  
John Bernhard

Steve Burns  
John Wright, Jr.  
Tony Johnson  
Joanne Frustaci  
Peter Lund  
Ashley Rooney  
Rory Fox  
Steve Kukolich  
Lance Conrad  
Jeffrey Kittredge  
Haynes C. Porter  
Deb Jacoby-Twigg  
Stephen Schaffner  
Endy Chiakpo  
Stephanie Fullerton  
Mary Ann Burnside  
Mark Davis  
Helene Sullas Huggins