

# THE PARISH OF THE ADVENT

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

**Type:** Annual Meeting

**Date:** May 16, 2021

**Place:** 30 Brimmer Street, Boston, Massachusetts

Pursuant to a duly issued warrant, an Annual Meeting of the Parish of the Advent was held on the Seventh Sunday of Easter, being the sixteenth day of May, *anno Domini nostri Iesu Christi* 2021, in the Nave, the Rev'd Douglas E. Anderson, Rector, presiding.

Present in the Choir with the Rector were Mr. C. Thomas Brown, Rector's Warden, Mr. Paul J. Roberts, People's Warden, Mr. Adam C. Rutledge, Treasurer, and Mr. Frederick A. Ou, Clerk. Present in the Nave were the Rev'd David J. Thompson, Parochial Vicar, the Rev'd Dr. Jeffrey A. Hanson, Priest Associate, the Rev'd Moses N. Buyondo, Deacon and Sexton, and a quorum of the Parish's members.

The Rector called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and offered an opening prayer.

### I. NAMING OF THE TELLERS

The Rector named Dr. Mark D. Aparece, Dr. Maria J. Denslow, Dr. Lynn E. Eustis, and Mr. Michael J. Oliveri as tellers.

### II. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer reported that the Parish had finished 2020 with a balanced budget, and that a balanced budget for 2021 had been approved. Some matters of note that occurred during 2020 included (i) the Vestry deciding that the Parish will provide continued financial support to the musicians under its employ throughout the pandemic, as is our moral responsibility; (ii) the Parish's receipt of a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan of approximately \$180,000, which has since been forgiven in full; and (iii) a revamping of the Parish's financial procedures and processes, in accordance with recommendations previously made by the Administration Committee.

The Treasurer also noted that the Parish was the only parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts that remained committed to in-person worship, with the implementation of full safety protocols, throughout 2020. This was the result of great efforts by the Parish's clergy and is in keeping with Anglo-Catholic theology on the importance of

the Mass. Through concrete actions such as maintaining continued fellowship and visitation of the sick, the Parish's strength as a community was publicly visible, to the extent that we were even able to attract new parishioners during this time.

In addition, the Treasurer explained that the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts had announced, largely without discussion, a retroactive change to its assessment formula during 2020 to make it based on income, rather than expenditures. The stated reason for this change was that it was necessary to balance the Diocese's books. This has had a considerable effect on the Parish's assessment, which rose by approximately \$50,000.

Concluding, the Treasurer remarked that planning would begin for capital projects that are likely to be needed moving forward, and that the Parish was in great shape overall financially, especially compared to other parishes in the area—the future is bright.

### **III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The Rector presented the minutes of the Parish's last annual meeting, held on January 26, 2020. After review, upon motion, duly made and seconded, it was

***RESOLVED***, that the minutes of the Parish's 2020 annual meeting be approved as submitted.

### **IV. REPORT OF THE RECTOR'S WARDEN**

The Rector's Warden observed that he would be coming off the Vestry after the conclusion of the imminent election, and expressed how meaningful the opportunity to serve the Parish had been to him, especially during a time of transition to a new Rector, and how he had gotten the opportunity to get to know many parishioners with whom he had not been previously acquainted. In particular, the Rector's Warden thanked Mr. Roberts for his work as People's Warden, Miss Lynda J. Blair and Dr. David E. Lapin for their efforts as the respective heads of the two transition committees, and Mr. John M. Boyd, his predecessor as Rector's Warden, for his advice on such role.

The Rector's Warden reflected that there had been a certain blessing to be found in the charity and purity of worship that had occurred during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Moving forward, it would be necessary to tackle the significant task of "remembering the Parish," i.e., rebuilding relationships within the Parish, as set forth in the example of our Lord's Incarnation. Finally, he exhorted those present to listen, have patience, and be direct with one another, as we work to try to return the Parish to a state of normalcy.

## V. RECTOR'S REPORT

The Rector first recited the following collect from the Book of Common Prayer:

*“Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy, but first He suffered pain, and entered not into glory before He was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the Cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”*

The Rector cited this collect as an example of what makes prayer in our tradition so rich—that it is time-tested, well-worn, and raises us into the very throne room of Heaven—which is one of many reasons why he is an enthusiastically Anglican Christian.

The Rector recounted his journey from his last days as rector of Saint James' Church Texarkana in Texarkana, Texas, to the beginning of his time as Sixteenth Rector of the Parish. He noted how it had been only a few weeks between his first Sunday at the Parish on Candlemas, February 2, 2020, and the descent of pandemic-related worship restrictions upon the Parish, and reflected on the pain and loss experienced by all persons over the past year.

The Rector lamented how the pandemic had disrupted the normal period at the beginning of a rectorship during which a new rector and his or her congregation get to know one another, but stated that, nonetheless, significant work had been accomplished since the start of the pandemic. He thanked the Wardens and the Vestry for their wise counsel and faithful service during this period, especially Mr. Brown, Mr. Roberts, Miss Amanda W. Daley, and Dr. Brent D. Nelson, whose terms were ending.

The Rector then remarked on the state of the Parish. He noted that the Parish had continued to pay its choir members, even when the Parish had essentially been physically closed, and that webcasts of the Sunday Mass and Choral Evensong had been produced totaling many hundreds of hours of material, which had reached listeners all over the world. He observed that despite the imposition of onerous restrictions that had severely restricted or prohibited in-person worship from occurring, the Parish had still ended 2020 with ninety-four percent of the year's total pledged amount having been fulfilled. Moreover, for 2021, the Parish had received fifty-four pledge increases and twenty new or renewed pledges—remarkable given the ongoing pandemic.

The Rector noted that so far, Sunday attendance at the Parish remained strong. The Parish remained one of only a few parishes in the Diocese open for public worship, which had been made possible by both the faithful laity and the Parish's clergy, including Fr. Thompson and Fr. Hanson, as well as the Rev'd Jay C. James, who is retired, and

other assisting priests. Furthermore, pastoral care continued to be provided, the Parish's Tuesday Night Community Dinner program had continued unabated, and adult Christian education had increased, albeit via Zoom.

Moving forward, the Rector announced that he had three main goals.

First, he sought to continue to work towards the restoration of full worship life at the Parish.

Second, he wanted to concentrate on evangelization. The Rector commented on the divisive state of the fallen world around us, and the need for us to manifest the fruits of the Spirit in proclamation of Christ and the Kingdom to others, particularly given Anglo-Catholicism's history of missionary work and promoting a more just society. He especially highlighted ongoing plans to reestablish Christian education for both adults and children, as well as hold another Anglo-Catholic conference around the Feast of the Ascension in 2022.

Finally, the Rector desired an overall focus on the sanctification of the Parish's members, through, among other things, the Mass, formal Christian education, cleaving to the Scriptures, the renewal of devotional societies, the revitalization of small groups, and increased service to the poor and needy.

In conclusion, the Rector said that in the current, unprecedented times, every Parish member needed to also be a minister and contribute his or her time and talents to the Parish's collective work. He stated that a parish is composed not of its physical property, but of its people, and that he looked forward with optimism to working together with the Parish's members to do something beautiful for God.

## VI. NOMINATIONS FOR PARISH OFFICE

Ms. Deborah R. Hanley, on the Nominating Committee's behalf, provided the following names, who were offered, seconded, and placed into nomination for Parish office:

- *For Vestry (four full terms):* Miss Amanda W. Daley, Mrs. Meg W. Nelson, Mr. Frederick A. Ou, and Ms. Julianne E. Turé
- *For Treasurer:* Mr. Adam C. Rutledge
- *For Clerk:* Mr. Nicholas T. Westberg
- *For Delegates to the Diocesan Convention (and the Boston Harbor Deanery):* Mr. Alexander E. Mojarrab and Mrs. Magdalena E. Westberg

Ms. Betsy R. Madsen was nominated to serve as Alternate Delegate to the Diocesan Convention (and the Boston Harbor Deanery), which nomination was seconded, and accepted by Ms. Madsen.

## VII. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

All business provided for in the warrant for the Annual Meeting being addressed, upon motion, duly made and seconded, the Parish's members voted to adjourn the meeting. The Rector offered a closing prayer, whereupon the meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m., pending the counting of the vote.

## VIII. ELECTION TO PARISH OFFICE

Those Parish members present voted for nominated candidates for Parish office by secret ballot. Following the 11:00 a.m. Mass, the tellers retired to count the vote, and it was determined that the following persons were elected:

- *Vestry*: Miss Amanda W. Daley, Mrs. Meg W. Nelson, Mr. Frederick A. Ou, and Ms. Julianne E. Turé
- *Treasurer*: Mr. Adam C. Rutledge
- *Clerk*: Mr. Nicholas T. Westberg
- *Delegates to the Diocesan Convention (and the Boston Harbor Deanery)*: Mr. Alexander E. Mojarrab and Mrs. Magdalena E. Westberg
- *Alternate Delegate to the Diocesan Convention (and the Boston Harbor Deanery)*: Ms. Betsy R. Madsen

I attest that the above is a true record of the Annual Meeting held on Sunday, May 16, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



Frederick A. Ou,  
Clerk