

**St. James' Church, Collegeville**  
**Annual Meeting 4/18/2021 via Zoom**  
**Minutes**

1. Fr. Mike Sowards opened meeting by noting that the meeting is being recorded for later viewing by those who are unable to attend in real time. Drew Beck acknowledged that because of an oversight related to a staff illness we were unable to advertise this meeting 2 weeks in advance as stated in our bylaws. The Vestry approved a one-time allowance to forgo the 2 week notice so that we could have the meeting as scheduled.
2. Drew commented on the many extraordinary challenges of 2020 due to the pandemic that we faced but were able to creatively find solutions for by having online worship services as well as church school, choir and compline.
3. Fr. Mike opened the meeting with a prayer.
4. The agenda was presented and approved.
5. Drew reported said that despite the many challenges of the pandemic St. James' added 19 new members, some from far away through the online feature, donations to the Outreach House were substantially increased, in addition to several large grants. The parish continued with generous giving in pledges and Capital pledges.
6. Drew introduced members of the Vestry, Diocesan Representatives and Deanery Representatives. Special thanks from Fr. Mike were extended to Gene Goff, Steve Jackson and Jon Yenney whose terms on the Vestry are ending.
7. The second Class of Servants of St. James' was presented for Exceptional Service to St James'. We celebrated the contributions of Mrs. Barbara Bateman for her work as Rector's Warden, Mrs. Carole Exley for her service at the Outreach House, and Mr. Dale Pennacker for his longtime work as Church Treasurer. Their names will be on a plaque in the church.
8. Vestry Elections/Appointments: To fill the 3 open spots on the Vestry, Iva Ferrell, Chuck Rogers and Marc Wezner were introduced and approved as new vestry members. It was moved and approved to have Peggy Spinozzi serve a second term on the Vestry. It was noted that Faith Parshall will be cycling off as Delegate to convention, but Jon Yenney and Phil Tatem will continue in that role. A vote approved these representatives.
9. Fr. Mike: State of the Parish Report- Church Membership has grown from 501 in 2016 to 614 in 2020, Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) from 168 to 206. Despite the pandemic there was a net Increase of 17 people in 2020.
10. Phil Tatem, Treasurer, discussed that giving has done very well in spite of the pandemic with only a slight dip. Eighteen percent of our revenue goes to outside entities such as the diocese, Outreach House and Rector's Discretionary Fund. Most of our money is spent on property and payroll; other expenditures discussed. Most income from parishioners but some from our endowment funds. We did receive PPP money (loan which was forgiven). Assets are very stable even though we built the Outreach House which cost almost 1 million dollars. He emphasized how important bequests are from will's and encouraged planned giving.
11. Fr. Mike said we are serving the community in many ways by hosting AA, Veterans Groups, Scouts and they in turn help us monetarily and in other ways. We have Community Garden

plots. The Vestry created a \$10,000 Covid 19 fund for Fr. Mike to help the needy pay bills during the pandemic. Many things such as online Compline that were created during the pandemic will continue afterwards.

**Committee Reports:**

12. *Outreach House* Response during the pandemic was dramatic with more donations and volunteer hours in keeping with our mission. We served many more clients. 200 kids received Christmas gifts through the mitten tree, we continued giving backpacks and Pattypacks for 42 children needing meals at home, and turkeys at Thanksgiving.
13. Fr. Mike acknowledge the talents and efforts of Lauren Exley as Director of *Christian Education* in coordinating 9 teachers who work virtually. The focus was Baptism this year. The Christmas Pageant was a creative use of technology. *Adult Education* continues with virtual Christ and Coffee and Theology on Tap.
14. *Parish Life* and *Member Ministry* were most severely affected due to restrictions of the pandemic. Maeve Vogan noted that with summer coming up there may some opportunity for outdoor fellowship. Inform her of any ideas.
15. *Communications*- Drew thanked Lisa for establishing our protocols which are now being used as the gold standard for all parishes in the diocese. Our YouTube viewership, social media, and Happenings communications continue to do well. Lisa said there is help available for anyone who needs help getting connected to view our online offering. Please reach out for help if needed.
16. *Buildings and Grounds*- Much work has been done in the past year; church office was renovated, some windows replaced, Bell Tower repaired, tree pruning done and the Outreach House walkway is in progress. The 3 Year Capital Campaign has reached its final year; \$404, 685 was received which is \$33,005 over our original pledged amount. Projects that were funded are the new Outreach House, new HVAC system, and upgraded electrical system. Long term needs in the future are the re-paving the church parking lot and painting. We will set up a strategic plan for future projects.
17. The meeting was opened for Questions and Comments, but there being none, Fr. Mike closed the meeting with a prayer at 2:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peggy Schiavo Spinozzi

Vestry Secretary

NB: There were 37 viewers actively watching the meeting. It was recorded and made available on Happenings communication sent out to parishioners to view later.