

**St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral**  
**San Diego, California**  
**Minutes of Annual Meeting**  
**January 26, 2025**

A. **OPENING PRAYER** – *The Rev. Canon Brooks Mason*

B. **CALL TO ORDER** – *The Very Rev. Penny Bridges, Dean of the Cathedral*

Dean Penny called the meeting to order at 1221hrs. She announced that vandals had targeted the Cathedral with hate graffiti on doors and walls. A police report was made, and the areas affected are being remediated. Dean Penny read a letter from Bishop Susan to our Cathedral family that was both comforting and encouraging.

Dean Penny then noted the return of the Chapter Clerk, The Rev. Michael Kilpatrick, to duty, which prompted a warm welcome home from the Cathedral family

C. **CALL TO QUORUM** – *The Rev. Michael Kilpatrick, Clerk and Secretary of the Chapter*

The clerk was informed there were 141 currently present at the meeting. To proceed with the annual meeting, a quorum must be established with at least 50 qualified electors being present. The Clerk proceeded to read Canon 5 of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego Canons entitled Electors and Elections, 5.00, Qualified Electors..

The clerk called for those who believed themselves qualified as electors pursuant to Canon 5 to make themselves known. The proctors reported that 118 attendees identified as qualified electors and a quorum was established.

D. **APPOINTMENT OF THE SECRETARY** - *The Very Rev. Penny Bridges*

Dean Penny asked for a motion to elect the Rev. Michael Kilpatrick as Clerk/Secretary of this meeting. Blair Shamel made the motion as stated, and Roxanne Perfect-Knight seconded. The vote was called and, without opposition, **APPROVED**

E. **APPROVAL OF THE 2025 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA** - *The Very Rev. Penny Bridges*

Dean Penny asked for a motion to approve the 2025 Annual Meeting Agenda. Phyllis Lengyel offered the motion as stated, and Justin Lewis seconded. The vote was called and, without opposition, **APPROVED**

F. **APPROVAL OF THE 2024 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES** - *The Very Rev. Penny Bridges*

Dean Penny explained that the minutes were taken a year ago and were posted about a month ago. Additionally, they were reviewed by the Chapter. As such, Dean Penny called for a motion to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes as

submitted. Mark Lester offered the motion, and Allen Mutchler seconded. No amendments or discussion were presented, the vote was called, and without opposition, **APPROVED**

G. **VOTING PROCEDURES AS ADOPTED BY THE CHAPTER** – *Mark VonderHaar, Esq., Chancellor*

Dean Penny introduced the new Chancellor, Mark VonderHaar, Esq.

The ballots were then handed out to the electorate.

The seven candidates for the Chapter were introduced and asked to stand and be recognized: Joanna Airhart, Frank Borik, Robbi Ewell, Demetreus Gregg, Robert Heylmun, Stacey Klamann, and Roland Tactay. Dean Penny explained that electors should vote for no more than five candidates. The election will fill four three-year terms and one two-year term.

Dean Penny explained that the current candidates (6) for the Lay delegates to the diocesan convention fit perfectly with the numbers needed, including the alternates. Delegate candidates were Lisa Churchill, Angel Ibarra, Allen Mutchler, and Blair Shamel; alternate candidates were Stacey Klamann and Diane Lopez Hughes. They were asked to stand and be recognized. She asked for an election by acclamation. **APPROVED**

H. **FIRST BALLOT FOR CHARTER ELECTION** – *Mark VonderHaar, Esq., Chancellor*

Voting is underway.

I. **UPDATE ON NUTMEG AND OLIVE LLC** – *Ken Tranbarger, President, Nutmeg and Olive, LLC.*

- Ken acknowledged several people including administrator Kathleen Sheehan Burgess, as key to success.
- The spaces for lease are not yet leased, but we are in conversation with a potential lessee and hope to have these spaces leased soon.
- We are working on a property tax issue.
- Our investment portfolio increased from 6.2 million dollars to 6.7 million dollars in 2024.

J. **STRATEGIC PLAN OUTLINE** – *Blair Shamel*

Dean Penny introduced Blair to talk about the draft of SPC's Strategic Plan for our nearterm future at Saint Paul's Cathedral. Note: this draft has not yet been reviewed by Chapter.

Blair began by describing the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) survey conducted by Holy Cow Consulting. The intent was to hear as many voices in our community as possible. We had 182 responses. However, only seven (7) responses were from people under 35 years old. Blair opined that we must do much better at “intergenerational relations” in bringing younger folks into our family. There were nine goals proposed by the committee.

First, we need to get better at welcoming newcomers.

Second, what can we offer to a younger generation to bring them to SPC?

Third, working on offerings in worship and programs that are not only traditional but contemporary as well.

Fourth, expand our offerings of music and the arts, as revenue generators.

Fifth, concentrate and increase our service to the oppressed and marginalized, committing to social justice and environmental issues and causes.

Sixth, Focus on increasing our congregation through “radical welcome.”

Seventh, Come up with new and innovative offerings of intergenerational fellowship and social gatherings, thus making our community more visible to our neighbors and the city as a whole.

Eighth, Offer year-round programs relating to formation.

Ninth, Be good stewards of finances and our campus.

K. **FINANCIAL REPORT** – *Betsey Monsell, Treasurer*

Betsey reported on the draft 2024 financial reports. These reports show what we owe and what we own. The good news is that the Cathedral has no debt.

In 2024, we had a small surplus. For 2025, we have adjusted the cost of living for staff at 2.5%. Additionally, we project that there will be increased costs relating to utilities, insurance, and contract work. Lastly, we have increased our Common Life Share to the diocese by \$18,000 and pledged \$20,000 per annum to the diocesan Courageous Love campaign. After careful consideration by the Chapter, we will draw an additional \$191,000.00 from the Cathedral Fund to balance the 2025 budget. Our projections regarding our budget and operating costs have been the most accurate in recent times, and as such, we are in excellent financial shape.

Betsey proceeded to report on Special Funds. Our Music Center campaign was incredibly successful, raising 2.5 million dollars for remodeling and construction that begins very soon.

L. **INVESTMENTS REPORT** - *Betsey Monsell, Treasurer*

Betsey reported that it was a good year regarding investments. She noted the generosity of giving. She reported that from 2015 to now, we have received several substantial gifts, increasing our invested funds from \$3,000,000.00 in 2015 to almost \$7,000,000.00 today. We have had a double digit return for the last two years. We received a gift from Jim Langston’s estate of \$40,000.00, designated for

the cathedral endowment; and Justin Lewis and Roland Tactay made a gift of \$100,000 to start a special music endowment in memory of Justin's father the Rev. Dr Harold Lewis.

Betsey commented on the extraordinary giving that supports the work of the cathedral. Betsey encourages us to consider leaving a gift through estate planning (wills and trusts) to the cathedral.

Blair Shamel asked about the role of "Friends of the Cathedral" and what the funds were used for. Betsey explained that the funds were generally used for music, such as subsidizing the salary for the sub-organist, or special music programs, such as Christmas and Easter. Paul Hagen asked about the difference between a true endowment and the quasi-endowment.

- M. **STEWARDSHIP REPORT** – *The Rev. Canon Richard Hogue , Canon for Cathedral Life*  
Richard first noted the extraordinary hearts of the cathedral family and their giving in this year's stewardship campaign, stating that as of today the congregation has committed to a little over \$1.03 million through 232 pledges, fewer pledges than in 2024 but with larger amounts.

He then asked that the stewardship committee members stand and be recognized. He singled out the stewardship chair, Jairus Kleinert for special praise. Jairus has been chair for the last five years but is stepping down today. Richard announced the new chair of the Stewardship committee, Demetreus Gregg.

- N. **MUSIC CENTER CAMPAIGN** - *The Rev. Canon Richard Hogue*

Richard turned to the music center capital campaign which has raised \$2.5 million (202 pledges). The music center will add so much to the cathedral, the neighborhood, and the city of San Diego. Again, he acknowledged the generosity and love of the donors. He noted that one anonymous donor just signed a commitment letter for \$250,000 this week.

Richard recognized the committee members for their dedication and hard work: Tonya Chavis, Rockette Ewell, Martin Green, Janet and Paul Hagen, Sue Kelly, Donna Perdue, Justin Lewis, Kimberly Fernandez, and Russell Okihara. Russ and Rockette were co-chairs of this campaign. Our consultants from Netzel Grigsby Associates were so impressed with their work that they nominated Rocky and Russ as Volunteers of the Year of the North County Philanthropy Society; they won the accolade.

Richard acknowledged the leadership of the Chapter, who led the way, giving 11% of their own gifts to the campaign's overall goals. Finally, Richard acknowledged the work of the Feasibility Study Team.

Some construction has begun, and the planned movement of Voices of the City into temporary third floor space is coming soon (a bathroom is to be installed first) then the major work of construction, the fruits of the Music Center Campaign, will begin.

O. **HONOR OUTGOING CHAPTER MEMBERS** - *The Very Rev. Penny Bridges*

Dean Penny recognized the outgoing Chapter members Tonya Chavis, Russell Okihara, Stacey Klaman, and Bob Reed, and also our wardens Kimberly Fernandez, Dean's Warden, and Sue Kelly, the People's Warden.

P. **THE DEAN'S REMARKS** - *The Very Rev. Penny Bridges*

Dean Penny recommended that we watch the video of Bishop Mariann Budde's homily at the recent presidential inaugural service and her call for unity, mercy, and compassion. Penny announced that our Lenten series this year will focus on "civil discourse." Later in the year, we will have periodic forums where we can practice what we will have learned during the Lenten series. She also asked if anyone would have a conservative friend who might be willing to participate in a panel discussion.

We need to strengthen our ties to one another as well. Over 200 of our parishioners joined at social events during January 2025. Dean Penny added that if anyone is interested in hosting an event in their home or at the cathedral, they should let her know right away. She reminded us that the congregation is aging, and we must attract younger people to the cathedral. How do we make ourselves more attractive to younger people while remaining faithful to our faith and tradition?

Dean Penny noted that during Christmas, she observed teens, who, when the Lord's Prayer was being recited, did not participate. She notes that we need "deep formation" of younger folks, and one example of this is Kate Gould, with the kids at the services, where she has a book to teach them the Lord's Prayer. Penny reminded the attendees that they had identified ministry with families as a top priority in the survey, so she is asking for volunteers to step up and get involved in the ministry of formation.

She invited parishioners to consider sponsoring an event at SPC. She stated that the sponsoring does not have to be a classical event but something that lends itself to bringing people here to experience our cathedral family.

Dean Penny noted that plans are underway for St. Paul's to host the North American Dean's Conference in 2026. The last time we hosted this event was in 1994 when Jim Carroll was Dean.

Dean Penny recognized Sterling Winchester for his leadership of the adult formation ministry. She announced the retirement of Canon Konnie Dadmun as leader and trainer of the Alter Guild, and a well-deserved standing ovation followed.

○ THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION

- Elected to three-year terms-
  - Robbi Ewell
  - Stacey Klaman
  - Demetreus Gregg
  - Roland Tactay
- Elected to a two year term-  
Joanna Airhart

Penny also announced that Kimberly Fernandez has accepted her invitation to serve a second term as Dean's Warden.

Q. **THE ROBINSON CROSS AWARDS** - *The Very Rev. Penny Bridges*

Dean Penny explained that the Harold Robinson Cross was inaugurated in 1997 and awarded to those who had offered their time, talent, and treasure over an extended period of time. This year's recipients are Rockette Ewell and Russ Okihara.

R. **THE SINGING OF HYMN 535, "ye servants of God"**

S. **ADJOURNMENT** – *The Rev. Canon Brooks Mason*

T. The Annual meeting ended at 1357hrs.