

**CHRIST CHURCH DETROIT  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JANUARY 27, 2019**

Senior Warden Megan Norris welcomed the assembled faithful to the 173<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of Christ Church Detroit.

The minutes of the 172nd Annual Meeting on January 28, 2018, were approved as printed in the Annual Report.

**Recognition of Outgoing Senior Warden**

Roger Basse showered Megan Norris with praise for her dedication and service to our church. Her oversight of the 2016, 2017, and 2018 Vestry provided a solid ground to carry on as we operated without a rector. She was always there to give guidance to the two Search Committees, the J2A, Christian Ed, et al. The vestries that she served presented her with a flower arrangement beautifully designed and created by Richard Thomas. Roger Basse called together those who served with Megan for a group picture and presented her with a beautiful gold frame. Christine Galli presented the future gift of music that will be dedicated to Megan and will become a part of our choral library. A resounding standing ovation capped off a joyous celebration for our Megan.

Reports of other committees and activities were received as printed in the beautifully produced annual report (special thanks to Dawn Esse.) The Outreach Committee asked to give a further verbal report.

**Outreach Committee – Seth Lloyd**

- Mr. Lloyd highlighted the work of the parish resettling the Wahoods, a Syrian family taking refuge in our country. What a powerful combination of our Christ Church Detroit members working with the Reconstructionist Congregation of Detroit to offer services such as transportation to doctor appointments and elsewhere as needed. Special thanks to Francis Trix, Edwina Simpson, Bob and Jan Ackerman, and so many others.
- Over the year the Outreach Committee continued to our missions of Shelter Week, Gleaners, the Reading Camp, Crossroads, and the Spirit of Hope soup kitchen, and initiated our work with the Pope Francis Center.
- Jon Miller was recognized as the keeper of the Spirit of Hope soup kitchen since 1979, along with Merle Watts for her dedication to providing expertise in making her delicious recipes. Every fifth Saturday, Jon and Merle bring peace of mind to the lives of many.

- When the Outreach Committee, specifically Eileen MacDonald and Margo Norris, asked for diapers and gave us a goal, we rallied to exceed all expectations. The goal was 11,000 diapers and our members donated over 17,000. Now, we are asked to consider our service during the weekdays for both Crossroads and Gleaners.

### **Finance – Jane Forbes**

Megan introduced Jane as the person who knows everything, touching more than just financials. Special thanks to Treasurer David Faust, Megan Norris, Jan Weir, Carl Pfadt, and Glen Olivache for their outstanding work.

- The good news for 2018 is that this congregation is financially stable. Three major points to be reported:
  - We did not exceed the budget in our prudent draw.
  - The stock market's rise resulted in growth for our endowment.
  - We have yet to address our bell tower, windows, or kitchen.
- More good news to solidify our budget:
  - \$332,000 has been pledged for 2019.
  - The composition of the 97 pledge cards includes 13 new pledges, up 12 more than last year. Jane issued a plea to our members to make it an even 100, so please fill out the pledge card if you haven't already.
  - Yearly expenses that exceed what we receive in revenue each year are covered by what is referred to as a prudent draw (5%) from our investments. 2018's prudent draw was \$47,000 as opposed to the budgeted \$85,000. This was mainly due to last year's forecast of having a rector arrive in April. However, this year's budget suggests that we will far exceed our prudent draw.
- The not so good news is that we have cut the budget really as much as we can and still maintain our unique identity. In addition, we could responsibly spend as much as \$3 million on projects needed to maintain and/or improve this 173-year-old building.
- As of today, the changes to I-375 have a construction date set for 2022. Both plans that are now being contemplated will "ditch" the ditch south of Gratiot, gradually bringing the road to grade-level north of Jefferson and eliminating the curve in Jefferson just west of the church. On the whole, this may be fairly good news for us and we might even regain some property lost when I-375 was constructed.

### **Buildings and Grounds – Richard "Dick" Rubens**

Dick thanked the congregation for its support. The City of Detroit is growing by leaps and bounds with 16 new high-rise buildings in the next ten years. In 2018, we laid low with light repairs, patching, and fixing issues. However, there are four major issues to address:

- The plight of the bell tower has been in conversation for many years with the architectural firm Quinn Evans. It is in desperate need of tuckpointing, and the peeling paint is a sure sign that the water is infiltrating into the walls.
- Dick reported on the historical perspective of the City of Detroit's stormwater initiative. Our church and many others are now faced with how to address excess water, which can no longer run into the Detroit River. Kudos to Dick Rubens and Patrick Warner who were way ahead of the game by attending meetings on this topic, hiring an engineering firm to draw up our plan of addressing this situation, and lobbying for first-come/first-served monies made available to churches from the city. Their work has paid off. Christ Church will receive a 50% reimbursement for expenses to create a compliant water runoff plan as well as significantly reducing our water bills for all time. Bravo, gents!
- Unfortunately, there's more. Our radiator is sinking into the basement and will need a major overhaul.
- Our beloved Ledyard Hall and its well-worn kitchen are in serious need of renovations. This would open the door to our church providing more facility rentals.

**Recognition of Vestry and election of new vestry members** – The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey and Megan Norris

- Many thanks to David Faust, Allan Dib, Josephine Powell, Edwina Simpson (2020), Christine Galli, Roger Basse, Lisa Jones, and Bill Matthews (2021) for their hard work this past year.
- Those retiring from vestry this year are Megan Norris, Bill Matthews, Patrick Warner, and Kathryn Treece (2019). In addition, Bill Matthews has resigned from the vestry.
- Megan Norris announced that three members in good standing--Desmond Jones, Jim Treece, and Betty Warner--have agreed to serve three-year terms on the vestry. Chuck Atwater, another member in good standing, has agreed to serve the remaining two years of Bill Matthews' unexpired term. A fourth member in good standing is needed to join the vestry class of 2022. There was a nomination from the floor to nominate Phil Brown. Susan Diehl seconded it. **MOTION:** A unanimous ballot be cast to elect the Desmond, Jim, Betty, and Phil to three-year terms on the vestry, and Chuck to a two-year term. **MOTION APPROVED**
- **MOTION:** Elect Jim Treece, Josephine Powell, and George Port as delegates to the Diocesan Convention and Lucinda Keils as an alternate. **MOTION APPROVED**

**Senior Warden Remarks**

- Megan gave thanks and praise to Dick and Patrick for their dedication to the stormwater project, noting their attendance to the many meetings and being in the

forefront of other churches to hire the contractors and engineers PLUS obtain a portion of the \$5 million fund provided by the City of Detroit. The project is expected to cost \$90,000. Megan promised that the parish will get an “ask” to raise \$75,000 of the monies for this project. It is a vital imperative to have this completed and reap the benefits for many years to come.

- The bell tower is also one of the biggest and most pressing issues facing our beloved church. Quinn Evans has already evaluated the scope of the project and was notified that we would move forward with their proposed items one year from now. There will be a plan for a capital campaign that will span this coming year to address these major endeavors.
- Megan sang her blessings to the many people who joined our church after Labor Day of 2015 when there was no rector. She asked those present who fit this scope to stand and promised that we are a friendly bunch and be patient if we don’t always appear “graceful” in our workings. Megan also thanked the supply priests who kept our Sunday morning services available-- especially our beloved David Dieter who brought us love, care, and consistency.
- Megan also thanked the many supporting parties, including:
  - Acolytes – Cathy Berlage
  - Altar Guild – Liza Parkinson
  - Flowers – Richard Thomas
  - Christian Ed – A host of volunteers, but especially Anne Hughes
  - Readers
  - LEMS and LEVs
  - Music Program – Ed Maki-Schramm
  - Support Staff in the office: Jan Weir, Kathryn Treece, Donna Gloff, Edwina Simpson, Josephine Mashour and, especially, Dawn Esse
  - Hospitality and Decorations Committee
  - Profile and Search Committees

**Rector Remarks** – The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey

The saying “You know you found your people when you know you can play” was provided by a wise friend. Emily feels that her team is definitely a group with which she can “be at play.” Many thanks were given to David Dieter, Dawn, Dick, Jan, Katrina, and Ed, who is celebrating his 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary in February 2019. We are blessed!

There being no further business the meeting adjourned with prayer at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine M. Galli, M.Ed.  
Clerk of Vestry