

Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting
Emmanuel Episcopal Church
December 6, 2009
9:00 a.m.

The Annual Meeting began with the service of The Word in the Common Room at 9:00 a.m. After the exchange of the Peace, the service was suspended for a brunch and the annual parish meeting.

Father Robert called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m. and distributed the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved with no revisions. Lee Albright was nominated by the Vestry to serve as secretary for the meeting. Seconded and approved.

The following tellers were nominated by the Vestry: John Albright (head teller), John Becker, Erwin Greene, Matthew Hicks, Amrey Harden, and Bob Wood. Seconded and approved.

Senior Warden Naomi Norman thanked the nominating committee for their work: Ron Bates, John Becker, Katherine Byrne, Phillip Cofer, Mark Dodson, Charlotte Eberhard, Erwin Greene, Debra Harden, and Naomi Norman. She then announced the slate of nominees for the Vestry and asked them to come forward to introduce themselves: Butch Bush, Brian Freese, Sean Hogan, Matt Humphrey, Sandy Jarrett, Mary Moore, Bekki Sizemore-Wagner, and Carter Stanfield.

Ballots were distributed and the requirements for voting were reviewed by Father Robert. One must vote for five nominees for the ballot to be counted. Those voting must be at least 16 years of age and be faithful communicants in good standing. The five nominees receiving the most votes will be elected.

Senior Warden Report and Update on Recent Vestry Initiatives

Naomi began her report by naming each opportunity at Emmanuel to serve in outreach, asking those present to stand as they heard an activity read in which they had participated. Almost everyone was standing as Naomi concluded the list. She noted that “this is outreach, mission, and ministry at Emmanuel.” It has been a wonderful year and, as in the reading of the day from Philippians 1:3-11, good works have transformed our lives. Naomi said that serving as Senior Warden had been a privilege and was both enlightening and personally rewarding. She stood in awe of everyone in the parish and was grateful for the wonderful staff, the coordinators of the formation programs, and especially Father Robert who nurtures and challenges the people of Emmanuel.

Naomi highlighted recent Vestry and parish initiatives:

- The Parish Life and Pastoral Care Commissions had been active, adding the Blue Christmas service this year.
- The Athens Land Trust cottage had been refurbished and opened for operation. CASA is working hard to raise funds to refurbish their cottage.

- The roof of the sanctuary and office area has been replaced and repairs have been made to the structure and stonework. The roof should be leak-free for the first time since 1892.
- A structural engineer has evaluated the buildings and has advised the Vestry about some structural repairs that should be made around our campus.
- An Accessibility Summit for Emmanuel will be planned for 2010.
- A Creation Keeper has been named and a committee is being formed. Georgia Interfaith Power and Light will do an energy assessment of the campus.
- A feasibility study for a capital campaign was completed and showed that parishioners felt there was a need for renovation of old and new facilities. As Sam reminds us, the organ also needs refurbishing. The feasibility study also indicated that a majority of the members of Emmanuel are ready for a capital campaign and acknowledge that we need to move forward. An ad hoc Planning Committee is defining our space needs and will give these to several architects who will present us with some options. (A chart outlining the actions of the ad hoc committee is on the website.) The Vestry voted earlier today to hire a campaign consultant.

Naomi concluded by saying Vestry service can be compared to the *Wizard of Oz* – you may sometimes feel you have been taken off by a tornado, but you will be greatly rewarded.

Father Robert called for questions about the report and there were none.

Lee Gaby offered thanks for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the parish's gift of support to the Nimely family, and to Father Robert for his work and caring.

Financial Report

Nancy McDuff, Finance Chair, thanked Naomi for her exemplary service. She noted that Emmanuel's growth has presented financial issues (to accommodate all the programs of the members). She is working with the auditor on a consolidated financial sheet. Her committee is also preparing a financial handbook. Nancy noted that the stewardship of givers and past Vestries has created a reserve. The pledges and plate offering contribute about 85% of operating expenses. Annually, Emmanuel gives about \$400,000/year in outreach from the endowment and operating funds. In 2008, the Vestry approved a negative budget, but came out in the black. In 2009 we also had a negative budget, but lower expenses and the fundraiser helped make up the difference. We still need pledges to be fulfilled for 2009. The final 2010 budget will not be approved until pledge cards are returned. We need the pledge cards to be turned in so that the Vestry can finalize the budget and move forward with plans.

Questions about the Financial Report:

Linda Dodson: Why are pledges not fulfilled?

New members and those who have not pledged add to the income. Savings came from keeping expenses down, not more revenue. Usually 97% of pledges are paid, but this year's percentage at this point is lower. The economy may be causing pledges to be behind. Father Robert added that he has trust in God that we will end the year in the black. We usually receive pledges and gifts at the end of the year.

Endowment Fund Report

Michael Fitzgerald, chair of the Endowment Board, had submitted an extensive report in the Annual Report booklet distributed at the meeting. He commented that through December 3, 2009, the fund was up 18% net for the year to date. There is still a long way to go to reach previous levels, but the funds are on the right track. There are normal cycles in the market and the economy. The focus of the board is on the troughs and management of the funds, ultimately about how much money is preserved, not what is gained.

There were no questions. Father Robert reminded the parish that we can never forget the element of faith.

Announcements

- Naomi distributed “Emmanuel Dollar” certificates to those present instructing that each person should choose one of the outreach agencies on the list to receive a one dollar contribution from Emmanuel for each “Emmanuel Dollar” turned in during the meeting.
- Bette McNeely highlighted the fliers for the Blue Christmas service, a new program of the Health Ministry at Emmanuel on December 20.
- Ann Cabaniss asked for a recycling bin for the paper after the meeting.
- Father Robert offered everyone the 2010 Emmanuel Calendar which features a painting of Emmanuel.

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members

Father Robert expressed his thanks for the service of the outgoing class: John Becker (Junior Warden), Erwin Greene, Matt Humphrey, Phillip Cofer, and Naomi Norman.

Presentation of the new Vestry Class

Elected were: Butch Bush, Sean Hogan, Matt Humphrey (elected to his own 3-year term after completing the unexpired term of Bill Connerat), Sandy Jarrett, and Mary Moore.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m. The congregation proceeded to the sanctuary for the service of Holy Communion.

Respectfully submitted,
Lee L. Albright
Clerk of the Vestry and Secretary

Approved at Annual Meeting December 5, 2010