

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 28, 2018 – 10:15 am
Nourse Hall

Vestry Officers Present: The Rev'd Geoffrey Hoare (Priest-in-Charge), Laura Ingersoll (Senior Warden), Rich Turner (Junior Warden), Hollis McLoughlin (Treasurer).

Vestry Members Present: Michele Bond, Julie Clements Smith, Emily DiBari, Lucy Fraser, Ken Patterson, Jane Schubert.

Staff Present: Associate Rectors Jim Quigley, Emily Griffin, and Debbie Kirk; Director of Finance Douglas Dykstra; Lay Pastoral Care Coordinator Jo Turner; Coordinator of Volunteers David Johnson.

Others Present: Leo Coco, Eliot Edgar, Ted Swett (Diocesan Delegates); Robin Rudd (WSA President); approximately 120 additional parishioners.

Opening Prayer and Call to Order: Following opening prayers, Mr. Hoare called the annual meeting of the Parish to order at approximately 10:15 am. A quorum was declared. [Note: 100 would constitute a quorum.] Mr. Hoare appointed Jane Schubert to serve as acting secretary, and Mary Kostel to serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting, noting that while Ms. Kostel was not present, she was available by phone as needed. He noted that the Annual Reports had been published to the parish electronically prior to the Annual Meeting, and were available in printed form at the meeting. He announced that a report on the previous day's Diocesan Convention would be presented by parishioner Paul Brewster following the formal reports to the parish.

Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting: Mr. Hoare noted that the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of June 4, 2017 had been published to the parish electronically prior to this Annual Meeting, and were available in printed form at the meeting. Reading of the Minutes was dispensed with. Following motion by Michele Bond, seconded by Ken Patterson, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

Rector's Report: Mr. Hoare expressed gratitude to all those who stood for election this year, and then orally delivered the written Rector's report on the state of the parish, which was submitted for the record. He asked that questions be held until after all the reports were presented.

Wardens' Annual Report: Senior Warden Laura Ingersoll orally presented highlights from the Wardens' Annual Report, which was submitted for the record. She announced that a first order of business for the new Vestry would be to undertake the mutual discernment, on behalf of the parish and together with Geoffrey Hoare and Bishop Mariann Budde, as to whether he would

be called to serve as our Rector. Ms. Ingersoll stated the Wardens' view that there is broad and enthusiastic consensus within the parish that supports extending such a call. At this point, those present erupted into sustained, vigorous applause in an extended standing ovation. When things quieted down, Ms. Ingersoll invited parishioners to communicate their views on the matter to Vestry members in the near future.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Hollis McLoughlin orally presented highlights from his written report, which was submitted for the record, and responded to questions from the floor.

Diocesan Convention Report: Parishioner Paul Brewster, who serves on the Diocesan Council as a representative from the Northwest Washington Region (which includes St. Alban's), orally reported highlights from the previous day's annual Diocesan Convention. He noted particularly the extraordinary unity and diversity among those attending the Convention – and the fact that there were no contested votes. Major resolutions passed involved immigration issues, inclusive language for a hymnal revision, and support for transgender persons. He announced that St. Alban's parishioner Anton Vanderpool had been elected to serve on the Diocesan Standing Committee.

Questions and Discussion: Mr. Hoare thanked Ashley and Dominic Bianchi for their leadership of the annual pledge campaign, and then opened the floor to questions and comments. Upon request, he addressed the evolving relationship between WSA (Workers of St. Alban's) and the committee that coordinates parish outreach, God's Work in the World (GWW). Pamela Melby expressed appreciation for Laura Ingersoll's leadership during the previous year. In response to questions, Mr. Hoare addressed the status of the music program, explained the plan to move toward a true tithe in St. Alban's giving both in outreach to mission and in contribution to the Diocese, and spoke of the steady health of the Spanish-language worship program (*San Albano*).

Mr. Hoare noted that the election results would be announced to the parish the following morning.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Hoare led a closing prayer and adjourned the Annual Meeting at 11:03 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Schubert, Secretary *pro tempore* (note-taker)
Laura Ingersoll, Senior Warden (transcriber)

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Parish
Sunday, October 28, 2018 – 10:20 am
Nourse Hall

Vestry Officers Present: The Rev'd Geoffrey Hoare (Rector), Laura Ingersoll (Senior Warden), Lucy Fraser Cage (Junior Warden). (Not present were Ted Swett, Secretary, and Hollis McLoughlin, Treasurer.)

Vestry Members Present: Adrienne Allison, Michele Bond, Walker Carter, Leo Coco, Glenn Davis, Tom Gustafson, Jane Schubert. (Not present were Julie Clements Smith and Tomás Montgomery, both teaching Sunday School, and Lara McCoy Roslof.)

Others Present: Approximately 105 parishioners (qualified voters).

Opening Prayer and Call to Order: Following opening prayers, Mr. Hoare called the meeting to order at 10:20 am. A quorum was declared. [Note: 100 would constitute a quorum.] Mr. Hoare appointed Laura Ingersoll to serve as acting secretary. He noted that the sole purpose of the meeting was to consider and vote on adoption of the proposed 2018 parish bylaws.

Presentation of the Proposed 2018 Parish Bylaws: Senior Warden and Governance Committee chair Laura Ingersoll noted that this special meeting of the parish was called by the Rector pursuant to Article I, Section 2 of the current parish bylaws, upon more than 30 days written notice to the parish. Ingersoll read a written report to the parish (attached) setting forth the rationale for the new bylaws and the process by which they were developed and vetted through the Vestry and the congregation as a whole. She noted that because the Vestry was moving the proposed bylaws for congregational action, it was not necessary that the motion be seconded, and further noted that an affirmative vote of 2/3 of those present was required for adoption of the proposed bylaws.

Vote: Mr. Hoare called for a vote on adoption of the proposed 2018 parish bylaws, as presented. By voice vote, with no votes in opposition or abstention, the bylaws were unanimously adopted. Mr. Hoare expressed gratitude to the Governance Committee and Vestry for their good work.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Hoare adjourned the special meeting at 10:30 am. (There followed a Rector's Forum during which Mr. Hoare discussed with the congregation his thoughts about the state of the parish and our continuing evolution.)

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Ingersoll, Secretary *pro tem*



October 28, 2018

TO: The Parish

FROM: The Rev'd Geoffrey M. St. J. Hoare, Rector
Laura Ingersoll, Senior Warden and Chair of the Governance Committee

cc: The Governance Committee*
The Vestry

SUBJECT: Proposed 2018 Parish Bylaws

[Read by the Senior Warden during the Special Parish meeting called for October 28, 2018.]

The Vestry and Governance Committee present to the parish today, for adoption, the proposed 2018 Parish Bylaws. Following is a report of the reason for the bylaws revision and the steps taken to ensure the Vestry, on behalf of the congregation, and the congregation at large, have had full opportunity to review and comment on them.

Rationale

Our current bylaws were enacted in 2014, as a revision of our oft-updated 1974 bylaws. Last January, delegates to the 2018 Episcopal Diocese of Washington (EDOW) convention approved a restatement of EDOW Canon 47, which governs the bylaws of all parishes in the diocese. Under our Episcopal system of governance, parish polity is subordinate to the diocese. Canon 47 is prescriptive – that is, it requires that each parish have bylaws, and it contains provisions that are required to be included in those parish bylaws. If any provision of a parish bylaws conflicts with Canon 47, the Canon prevails. We needed to revise our bylaws to conform to Canon 47. For the most part this did not require substantive changes. We took the opportunity to make a couple of corrections and updates to our bylaws. For example, our bylaws presumed our Annual Meeting would be in June; in 2017, the Vestry changed the Annual Meeting to January, as it was authorized to do. The bylaws needed to be adjusted to that new timing.

* The 2018 Governance Committee: Laura Ingersoll, Senior Warden (chair); Glenn Davis, Vestry member; Jane Schubert, Vestry member; Ken Patterson, parishioner; Bob Pinkard, parishioner; Geoffrey Hoare, Rector (*ex officio*); Mary Kostel, Chancellor (*ex officio*).

Process

The Governance Committee began the bylaws revision process in May, preparing an annotated first draft that set forth the canonical authority for each provision, and how it differed from the current bylaws. The committee also gave particular consideration to the recommendations regarding bylaws that had been made by the Governance Committee in 2016, in response to the Parish turmoil of that year. Because we view our community life together as relational, rather than legalistic, our approach to the bylaws has been to keep their scope minimal and their language streamlined.

The draft bylaws were first presented and explained to the Vestry at our July 18 meeting (and we even read it together aloud!). They were re-presented to the Vestry on August 15, and we discussed them. They were presented to the Vestry a third time on September 19, with some changes based on Vestry comments. With Vestry concurrence, this annotated revised draft was published to the parish for comment, along with the current bylaws for comparison, Canon 47, a Q&A explaining the rationale for the new bylaws, and – for those with deep interest in our governance tradition – a narrative history of St. Alban’s bylaws.

For several weeks, notices in the online “This Week at St. Alban’s” and in the Sunday bulletin informed parishioners how to find these documents online and advised that hard copies could be obtained from the Parish office. We invited comments, and we asked that they be written so that we could understand them fully and respond to them. And we announced and held two open “availabilities” for parishioners to come and ask questions or discuss the proposed bylaws, on the evening of Thursday, September 27, and during the Forum hour on Sunday, September 30.

We received written comments from two parishioners. They were thoughtful and well stated. We responded in writing, and discussed them with the commentators. We did not make the suggested changes, but both parishioners ultimately told us they would support the bylaws as proposed. One minor technical correction, however, was made.

On October 17, the Vestry unanimously approved the final version of the 2018 bylaws, for presentation to you, today, for adoption.

In summary, we have had four Vestry meeting opportunities to discuss the proposed bylaws, and the congregation will have had more than a month to review, consider, and comment on them.

The proposed 2018 parish bylaws are now before you for a vote. Because they are moved for action by the Vestry, a second is not required.