

Minutes for 2025 Annual General Meeting

All Saints Anglican Cathedral
Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Sunday, February 16, 2025

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm by The Very Reverend Alexandra Meek, Dean and Rector of All Saints' Anglican Cathedral. Digital copies of the 45-page AGM meeting package were circulated a week in advance of the meeting with some printed copies available.

Dean Alex thanked June and Leta for the lovely refreshments and their hospitality.

Opening Prayer led by The Very Reverend Alexandra Meek.

2. Signing of the Canonical Declaration

The Canonical Declaration was read aloud by the Dean on behalf of all present. An AGM sign-in register was circulated with twenty-seven (27) eligible parishioners attaching their signatures to it.

3. Appointment of the Secretary for the Meeting

MOTION

Moved by Dean Alexandra Meek that RJ Chambers, Administrative Assistant, be appointed as secretary for the meeting. Seconded by Thomas Usher. Carried.

4. Approval of the 2025 AGM Agenda

MOTION

Moved by Robert Shannon that the 2025 AGM meeting agenda be approved as amended. Seconded by Robert Reynolds. Carried.

5. Approval of Minutes from 2024 AGM

MOTION

Moved by Thomas Usher that the AGM meeting minutes held February 25, 2024 be approved as presented. Seconded by Robert Shannon. Carried.

6. Appointment of Wardens and Vestry Members

Given the evolving changes of the pandemic over the last few years, many Vestry members were asked year-by-year to serve. Going forward, we will be more intentional about the length of terms and elections following the end of term.

The Dean thanked vestry and corporation for their work over the last year. Specific thanks to Ebenezer Oladokun and Margaret Sisley, our wardens. As only one year of each of their terms have passed, both Ebenezer and Margaret will continue to serve in these roles for another year.

Dean Alex thanked Jay Adams, David Barnum, Barbara Burrows, Grant Harrison, Caroline Howarth, Louella Janzen Pick, Julia Nelson, Jeremy Rossiter, and David Nahirney (Treasurer) for their work on Vestry over the last year.

Completing their terms this year are Grant Harrison and Caroline Howarth. The other members all have agreed to continue and as they were elected last year, they will continue their terms for one more year.

Those continuing to serve on Vestry for 2025 are:

- Jay Adams
- David Barnum
- Barbara Burrows
- Louella Janzen Pick
- Julia Nelson
- Jeremy Rossiter
- David Nahirney, Treasurer

7. Election of Lay Members of Synod

We are asking members to vote for two members of Synod. The votes will be tabulated following the meeting and an announcement made shortly. There is no Synod scheduled for 2025 so these individuals are likely to not need to serve. But, if a Synod is called, the results of this vote will determine the Synod delegates.

The two who receive the most votes will be the two Synod delegates and the others will be named as alternates as per number of votes received (third highest votes will be first alternate, etc.).

RESULTS OF VOTE

The Synod Delegates will be Barb Burrows and Louella Janzen Pick. The Synod alternates (in this order) are Jay Adams, Julia Nelson, David Barnum, and Jeremy Rossiter.

8. Rector's Report and Diocesan Strategic Plan Update

The Dean spoke about the large amount of change that occurred over the last year. She expressed her thanks for everyone's joy and encouragement as we have navigated that change.

Questions:

- **With Ruth's departure, what will happen with the ministry at All Saints'?**
Budget considerations make it difficult for us to replace Ruth as vicar, so we have, instead, created a shared ministry partnership with St. Luke's Anglican Church and have asked the Rector of St. Luke's, The Reverend Nick Trussell, to serve in a 0.2 Assisting Priest role. This has been tested over the last few months as Ruth was serving in other parishes and we have budgeted for this relationship to continue this year. Making these changes now, rather than when absolutely necessary, allows us to carefully prepare for our future rather than to scramble for a way to survive down the road.

The Dean expressed her appreciation and thanks for Rev. Ruth's service over the last many years. She was an invaluable addition to the clergy of All Saints', and we wish her the very best as she moves forward to other areas of ministry.

Regarding the Diocese, things have been changing for many decades. Looking at our history, the last time the Anglican Church was growing in Canada was in 1964. Covid accelerated some of these changes and have led to the Diocese engaging in a strategic planning process. This planning process intends to look at trends in the Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Edmonton and to develop a plan that will lead to the continued success of the Diocese into the future.

At the 2024 Synod of the Diocese of Edmonton, the report from Another Way Consulting was considered (after holding sessions with all parishes within the Diocese) and spoke about at length. Some key considerations:

- 2/3 of our parishes are within the city limits of Edmonton. Of the remaining 1/3, in mostly rural communities, the communities themselves are shrinking in population.
- In 2023, on average across all parishes, 52 people attended Sunday services (in-person and online combined). This is a 14% decline from 2017.
- 1/3 of parishes have less than 25 members attending Sunday services.
- 2023 average number of children has declined by 42% from 2017.
- 85% of parishes have full-time or part-time priests but only 40% of parishes have a paid full-time priest.
- Ninety lay leaders (lay readers, lay evangelists, etc.) contribute to the Diocese - an average of two per parish.
- Almost 2/3 of parishes recorded fewer than fifty people using the church building outside of weekly Sunday services.

Of strengths identified, spiritual strengths were significant, including strong preaching, quality teaching, and talented musicians.

Another Way's final assessment was not lack of money or desire, it is lack of intergenerational turnover and overall lack of human resources.

Anna, the consultant, introduced a health metaphor throughout this process and indicated that approximately 33% of parishes are in a palliative situation. Approximately 42% of parishes are in a chronic situation but not yet palliative. The remaining approximately 25% of parishes are healthy and have the resources to weather pressing situations.

Diocesan Executive Council has gone through the notes compiled from all Synod delegates and met for a full day workshop on February 1 to begin development of a way to move forward. There is another Executive Council meeting on February 18 to continue this work. The bishop has tasked Executive Council to do comprehensive work in this area for the next eighteen months. This process is for everyone in the Diocese - healthy and struggling.

This may require more shared ministry across the Diocese in the future, but we not have the final plan until the process is complete. In the meantime, the Cathedral pursuing relationship with St. Luke's (as discussed previously) and other parishes will help increase the capacity and remove redundancies in each participating parish.

One conclusion is that we have too many buildings. We have all lived in this bubble of post-WWII development (with 649 Anglican churches built from 1944-1966). This was not a sustainable model of growth and did not account for the long-term needs of the church and community. As such, what seems like a significant decline is really a return to pre-WWII church membership.

In short, we have too many buildings. We love those buildings and the memories we hold and with the people we have met in those places. This was never a sustainable model, and we now need, together, to make the changes to ensure our long-term success.

As families in Canada are opting for smaller families, our population growth in Edmonton is now seen primarily through immigration. We will need to figure out how to connect to new communities and new cultures as we continue to spread the love of Christ to everyone. We are faced with a great opportunity, and it is time for us to embrace this chance to stabilize our future.

9. Acceptance of Ministry Reports

The Dean expressed her thanks for all of those who served in their ministry areas. She expressed that many areas seem to have stabilized over the last year and that things feel more comfortable.

The Dean referenced the below Ministry Reports, included in the AGM meeting package, and invited individuals to speak to their reports or for individuals to ask questions.

Questions:

- **Did we receive money from a federal grant for accessibility?**
Not yet but we have not been told no, so it is a possibility it is still in process.

Renovations were completed last summer but there are still some funds remaining that will be used to upgrade the sound system in the coming months.

There were no additional questions regarding the ministry reports.

Reports contained in the AGM packet:

Rector

Other Ministry Areas:

Administrator

Wardens

Altar Guild

Breakfast Ministry

Hospitality

Manna Market

Music Director

Patchwork Saints

Senior's Outreach

Servers' Guild

Sidespeople

Vision 2020

Diocesan Strategic Plan

MOTION

Moved by Margaret Sisley that the Ministry Reports be accepted as presented. Seconded by Jay Adams. Carried.

10. Financial Report for 2024 and Presentation of 2025 Budget

The complete set of financial statements were sent out with the full AGM package (and are attached to these minutes). Treasurer, David Nahirney, began by presenting the Annual Income and Expense Statement from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

We do have a financial shortfall, but the giving of the parish has remained generous with David expressing his thanks for that.

Income

Envelope giving was down from projected but open plate giving was higher than budgeted. Memorial gifts were \$25k from Pam Allan's estate. Rental bookings are increasing again. We received \$97,000 in special projects but that is captured later and not included in the income statement. GST refunds were held up in the postal strike so we will see additional income in 2025 in that line item.

Total income was about \$296,000.00 which was a bit below our budgeted income. That amount does not include the \$97k just mentioned.

Expenses

Cooling system required about \$9,000 to repair. Janitorial spending was increased due to some large cleanup projects, including following the renovations and polishing floors. One big maintenance project was improvements to the locks and security. Utilities is below budget. We had a 16% increase to insurance last year which, in part, led to insurance being doubled over the last 5-6 years. This will not increase nearly as much in the coming year. Property was above budget. Total personnel spending was below budget as Rev. Ruth was seconded to other parishes for much of the year. Our personnel spending is now much lower than it was in recent years (they were about 50% higher six years ago). Office expenses were significantly below budget.

Total expenses were around \$470,000.00.

At the end of the year, we ended with a deficit of over \$174,000.00.

2024 Budget Shortfall

The shortfall from 2024 was, again, covered by Endowment Income and Endowment Capital funds (the Mays Memorial Fund).

Questions:

- **Are there ways to increase revenue, particularly through rentals?**

We have already started to see an increase in bookings following the renovations and we anticipate such bookings will continue to increase. There is also a changing landscape with venues across the city which will likely benefit the Cathedral's bookings in the long-term.

- **Does St. Mark-Jieng pay rent, or can they pay rent or for the resources they are using?**

The Cathedral will have some shared activities with St. Mark-Jieng in the coming months and, as this relationship grows, the Dean will discuss with Rev. Akon about possibilities for sharing costs going forward.

MOTION

Moved by David Nahirney that the income and expense statement and budget report for 2024 be approved as published in the annual general meeting materials. Seconded by David Barnum. Carried.

Restricted Funds Report

The Peggy Anne Memorial Fund/Alabaster Jar covered much of the expenses of renovations project. The other funds disbursements are well summarized on page eight of David's report.

Investment income was very strong over the last year (and the previous years). Even with a \$200k withdrawal from our funds in 2024, the value of the fund only dropped \$38k from the prior year. Over the last six years, though about \$800k has been withdrawn, the endowments are only down about \$100k. Eight or nine years ago, the endowments were about \$1,000,000 so we are not far off from that time (they are currently around \$980k).

2024 deficits were covered from income from the endowments. Remaining deficit, after applying those fund incomes, has come from the Mays Memorial Fund.

MOTION

It was moved by David Nahirney that the Restricted Funds Reconciliation and the Endowment Funds Reconciliation as at December 31, 2024 be approved as published in the annual general meeting materials. Seconded by Robert Shannon. Passed.

2025 Budget

Income

Based on our recent track record and expected pre-authorized giving, we have budgeted approximately the same as what was received last year. We expect church and hall rentals to be a bit higher. Total budgeted income is just over \$285,000.00.

Expenses

We hope that repairs and maintenance will be lower than last year. Janitorial should have less large cleanups also. Utilities are budgeted a bit higher. Insurance will increase about 4%. Apportionment continues to be at prior year levels. This is based upon our endowment income as well so that is why it remains high. Outreach is quite high due to some donations already made in 2025 to ICMP due to their fire and other needs. Payroll is down from last year. Office expenses are budgeted lower as well.

Summary

Total expenses are around \$444,000 with income anticipated at around \$285,000 leaving a shortfall of just over \$158,000 (slightly smaller than last year and the smallest deficit since 2021). The plan to cover the 2025 budgeted shortfall was reviewed by the Treasurer.

David Barnum thanked David Nahirney for his excellent work as treasurer.

MOTION

Moved by David Nahirney that the 2025 Budget as recommended by Corporation and Vestry, and as published in the annual general meeting materials, be approved and adopted. Seconded by Ebenezer Oladokun. Carried.

MOTION

Moved by David Nahirney that the shortfall (expenses not covered by income) in the 2025 budget be covered:

- First, by applying the 2025 income earned by individual endowment funds where the purpose of the fund relates to a budget expense item, to cover those budget expense items.
- Then, if necessary, by applying funds from the capital of the Mays Memorial Endowment Fund.

Where use of the capital of the Endowment Funds to cover 2025 shortfall is not presently within the purpose for which the individual fund was created, the purpose of the fund shall stand amended to permit the use of the capital to cover the 2025 budget shortfall. Seconded by David Barnum. Carried.

Questions:

- **How much remains in the Mays Memorial Fund?**
Approximately \$240k. We will likely use the remainder of this fund over the next couple of years, depending on income in other endowments.

11. Appointment of 2025 Accounts Examiner

Treasurer, David Nahirney noted that King & Company had reviewed the books for the last few years.

MOTION

David Nahirney moved that King & Company Chartered Accountants be retained to conduct a financial review of the parish financial position and accounts for 2024. Seconded by Jay Adams. Carried.

12. Closing Prayer was led by led by the Very Reverend Alexandra Meek.

Dean Alex thanked all for attending the meeting today. The Grace was said together as a closing prayer.

MOTION

Moved by Rob Reynolds. Carried. Meeting was adjourned at 1:18pm.