

(Updated) Draft 2-20-2026
Saint Mark's Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2026, In Person & Virtually

OPENING

Rector Michele Morgan called to order the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting at 12:00 PM.

Associate Rector Caitlin Frazier offered the Opening Prayer.

Clerk Randy Marks announced that at least 139 voting members were on site and thus the meeting had a quorum. (The actual total was 156,136 in person and 20 online.)

Caitlin welcomed first-time attendees to the meeting.

Michele provided a brief report on the Parish's abundance, highlighting the need to manage change. And she thanked Doris Burton for compiling the [Annual Report](#).

MINUTES

The Meeting approved the minutes of the [February 2, 2025, Annual Meeting](#) with one change.

REPORTS

Assistant Treasurer for Special Gifts and Bequests, in place of Treasurer Doug Ammon, presented the [Treasurer's Report](#).

- He reported that the church ended with about a \$60,000 surplus (compared to a budgeted deficit of about \$60,000), due largely to receipt of about \$103,000 from an Employee Retention Tax Credit

(ERTC) (courtesy of Chris Berendes's discovery of its availability) and small increases in other revenue categories.

- The Vestry-approved 2026 budget includes about a \$65,000 deficit. The budget projects modest increases in several revenue categories and use of the approximately \$60,000 remaining ERTC money. On the expenditure side there are increases in Children's, Youth, and Families Ministries, Music, and Service and Social Justice.

Junior Warden Martha Huizenga [reported](#) on major building projects, including investments in security, nave doors, and the sound system.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministries (CYFM) Director Lisa Ramish reported on:

- The amazing growth of the program, which has tripled in the last two years, with 110 students in Sunday School, which next year will add two new classes. She noted that, on a typical Sunday, a quarter of attendees are under 18 and reported that there were 54 children and youth downstairs during the meeting.
- The leadership of the CYFM Board, which Rita Ossolinski will be leading, will focus on what we expect will be continued growth in participation and programs.

Retiring Senior Warden Jim Brooks discussed our abundance (including our finances and pledges, investments in building improvements, and our thriving programs) and the need to manage growth. He closed by giving thanks to the clergy and staff, noting that because our Parish is "demanding," they deserve a "measure of grace." He also thanked the Vestry, officers, and other lay leaders.

BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

The meeting considered Vestry-[proposed amendments](#) to the Parish By-Laws. During discussion of the proposed amendments to Sections 204 and 402, the proposals were amended by unanimous votes. The meeting

then unanimously approved these amendments (additions in red front, deletions struck through):

- **202. Notice of Annual Meeting** The Rector must give notice of the annual meeting at least one month before the day of the meeting by notice posted on the church bulletin board, in the worship bulletin or announcements, and on the parish website. In the Rector's absence or failure to act, the Senior Warden must give the notice. The notice shall specify whether the meeting shall be in-person, exclusively virtual, or in-person and virtual ("hybrid"). If the meeting is partially or completely virtual, the notice shall provide the information necessary to attend the meeting virtually.
- **204. Presiding Officer and Secretary . . .** The Secretary of the meeting will (1) upon challenge, assist the Vestry to determine who of those present are members, ~~(2) distribute the minutes of the previous meeting, and~~ (23) take and record the minutes of the meeting, including a record of any votes, and (3) submit the draft minutes to the membership no later than one month following the meeting. After the membership has had at least two weeks to submit corrections, the Vestry shall approve the minutes of any Annual or Special meeting or have the next Annual or Special meeting approve them.
- **205. Special Meetings** A special Parish meeting may be called by the Rector, by a majority of the Vestry, or by petition of (50) voting members of the Parish, with at least ten days notice posted on the bulletin board, in the worship bulletin or announcements, and on the Parish website. If the special meeting is to consider a change to these By-laws, then at least thirty days' notice shall be given. The notice shall specify whether the meeting shall be in-person, exclusively virtual, or in-person and virtual ('hybrid'). If the meeting is partially or completely virtual, the notice shall provide the information necessary to attend the meeting virtually. The notice also must state the business that the Parish will consider at the special meeting. No vote may be taken on any business not included previously in the notice.

- **401. Eligibility:** Candidates for the positions of Wardens, members of the Vestry, Officers of the Vestry, and Lay Delegates must be members of the Parish. See section 101 of these By-Laws. In addition, **each** candidates for Lay **and** ~~Delegates and Alternate Delegates~~ must be a ~~confirmed~~ communicant **in good standing** of the Protestant Episcopal Church.
- **402. Nominations** No later than two months before each Annual Meeting, the Rector (or the Senior Warden in the Rector's absence or failure to act), with the approval of the Vestry, must appoint a Nominating Committee, consisting of the Senior and Junior Wardens, all outgoing Members of the Vestry, and at least two members of the Parish who are not Members of the Vestry. The Nominating Committee will place in nomination at the Annual Meeting at least one qualified candidate for each position of Warden, Member of the Vestry, and Lay Delegate open for election. The report of the Nominating Committee listing and identifying the candidates selected by it, together with the voting procedure, must be posted on the church bulletin board and on the Parish website at least **15 days**~~one month~~ before each Annual Meeting. ~~(and, if feasible, in the church newsletter)~~. At the Annual Meeting the Nominating Committee will make its report, which action will place in nomination the candidates that it selected. Following the report of the Nominating Committee other nominations may be made from the floor.

ELECTIONS OF PARISH LEADERS

The members of the Nominating Committee were Senior Warden James Brooks (*ex officio*); Junior Warden Martha Huizenga (*ex officio*); Rector Michele Morgan (*ex officio*); Associate Rector Caitlin Frazier; Travis Beatty, Meg Pratt, and Todd Thorpe (retiring Vestry members, *ex officio*); and Lea Crusey and Jan Lipscomb (Parish Representatives).

For the Nominating Committee, Todd Thorpe reported that the Committee nominated:

- Alix Pereira for Senior Warden for a two-year term

- Martha Huizenga for Junior Warden for a one-year term'
- Laura Gladstrone, Randy Marks, and Bo Ranney for Vestry Members for three-year terms

The Committee withdrew the previously reported nomination of Randy Marks as Diocesan Delegate because By-Laws section 405C requires him to take a two-year sabbatical from service as a Delegate or officer due to his five years of service as Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, and Clerk.

Michael Knipe was nominated from the floor for Diocesan Delegate.

After nominations were closed, each candidate spoke briefly about their aspirations.

Because there were no contested elections, the Meeting elected each of the following by acclamation:

- Senior Warden: Alix Pereira
- Junior Warden: Martha Huizenga
- Vestry Members: Laura Gladstrone, Randy Marks, Bo Ranney
- Diocesan Delegate: Michael Knipe

CLOSING

Michele gave thanks and presented gifts to retiring Vestry members Travis Beatty, Meg Pratt, and Todd Thorpe; retiring Senior Warden Jim Brooks; retiring Vestry Clerk Randy Marks; retiring Assistant Treasurer Frank Nickerson; and retiring Vestry Counsel Rosemary Harold.

Seminarian Rebekah Taylor offered the closing prayer,

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Marks
(Retiring) Clerk & Meeting Secretary