

CHRIST CHURCH BY THE SEA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING JANUARY 21, 2018 -
MINUTES

AGENDA

- 1) **OPENING PRAYER:** The opening Prayer was given by Father Bob Webster.

- 2) **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:** The quorum was met, exceeding the initial requirement.

- 3) **MENTION OF LACK OF MINUTES FROM 2017:** Not available as they were not shared by Shirley.

- 4) **ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS:** George Fulton was nominated by Ralph Osborne & seconded by Dana Faris for the Vestry, motion approved unanimously. Fr. Bob Webster motioned that due to the difficult issues facing the Congregation, that we should suspend the provision in the By-Laws for term limits for one year. Fr. Michael Schirmacher seconded the motion, the Motion was approved unanimously. Char then moved that the Vestry be re-elected by acclaim, Allen Affleck

seconded the motion, the motion was approved unanimously. The Vestry shall remain the same until the Annual General Meeting of 2019.

Those elected are: Jennifer Birchall-Creighton, Dana Faris, Joyce Lujan, Ralph Osborne and Janet Rowe Hoffman.

5) **ANNUAL REPORT FROM CLERGY:** Fr. Michael Schirmacher gave the report (SEE ATTACHED). Ralph Osborne motioned that the report be approved as read, Janet Hoffman seconded the motion, the motion was passed unanimously.

6) **REPORT FROM SENIOR WARDEN:** The report was given by Janet Warden Hoffman. She announced the change of date for the Synod has been moved to April, 2018. The Vestry voted to organize a search Committee for a new Rector. Those who are interested may contact Janet. Those interested in serving may contact her. It was also reported that there is a possible grant to the Church that is being investigated. There is a possibility of a Special Congregational Meeting in April after the Synod. Vestry is developing a gift policy. The establishment of an Association Civil to administer the finances of the Parish is close to

being completed. A long range planning Committee will be appointed. Dana Faris moved that the report be approved as read, Fr. Michael seconded the motion, the motion was approved unanimously.

7) TREASURER'S REPORT: Dana Faris gave the Statement of Income & Expenses for the periods November - December, 2017. A motion was made by Ralph Osbourn to approve the Financial Report, the motion seconded by Janet Hoffman, the motion was approved unanimously.

8) REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR: The Budget for 2018 was given by Dana Faris. A motion was made by Janet Hoffman to approve, the motion was seconded by Ralph Osbourn, the motion was approved unanimously. It was reported that Janet Hoffman, Dana Faris and George Fulton would be the delegates to attend the Synod. A motion was made by Fr. Michael to approve the delegates, the motion seconded by Dana Faris, motion approved unanimously.

9) REPORT OF PROPERTY WARDEN: George Fulton reported that our new space was nothing but a shell and we started from the ground up to what CHRIST CHURCH BY THE SEA is today. George reported that we signed a one year lease, made all the improvements and is looking forward to signing a 3 year lease when due. George indicated that we are all looking forward to Bishop Elect Ricardo Joel Gomez Osnaya, coming to Bless our Church.

10)DELETED.

11) DISCUSSION OF VESTRY COMMITTEES:
Committees are being established: Property Budget, Liturgical, Hospitality and Outreach. Those wishing to serve should contact a Vestry Member.

12) COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: It was discussed that now we are including Spanish in our hymns and that it would be nice if we could have someone meeting with members who wish to learn Spanish. Sol Pizarro volunteered to come one hour before Church services to go thru the hymns in Spanish for those that are interested.

13) CLOSING PRAYER: The Closing Prayer was given by Father Lawrence.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.

Respectively submitted, Sudy Coy,

Annual Report from Clergy (Given by Fr. Michael Schirmacher)

1. Registers and Records from last Annual Meeting to the present were not available, so please excuse and correct any inaccuracies/omissions.

2. Sacramental Rites:

a. Holy Baptism – none

b. Confirmation/Reception – Dr. Gabriel Becerra and Lic. Omar Cabuto were received into the Anglican Communion by Bishop Lino on May 6, 2017 in Guadalajara.

c. Marriages – none

d. Ordination – none; however, delegates from Christ Church by the Sea attended and voted for the election of Fr. Ricardo Gomez Osnaya. Fr. Ricardo is scheduled to be consecrated in April.

In the fall the congregation was delighted to receive correspondence from Bishop Gene Robinson (retired, Diocese of New Hampshire) indicating his willingness to celebrate and serve while he visited Puerto Vallarta in December. Bp. Robinson preached and celebrated the Christmas Eve Mass, 6 PM December 24th. Attendance was 75, and the service was beautiful.

e. Ministry to the Sick/Unction – The sick and shut-in were visited regularly. One House Eucharist was provided for the Becerra family in San Juan de Abajo, Nayarit. Fr. Michael provided pastoral care when called by Pam Thomson for the sick and dying at San Javier Hospital.

f. Funerals/Memorial Services – Memorial services/funerals were held for two persons who had not been members of the parish: John Wehrs, Jr. (son of Fr. Jack and Shirley Wehrs_ died February 13, 2017; A memorial service was held February 25, 2017. Tom Atchakunas, partner of Alex Duarte, died January 7, 2018. A funeral Eucharist was held January 17, 2018.

Sunday Services: On August 8, 2017 Fr. Jack relieved Fr. Schirmacher of his priestly responsibilities and locked the church building which Fr. Jack owned until further notice. Lay Eucharistic Minister Judith Gaudens led Sunday Prayer Services in private homes between August 13 and October 29. Bishop-Elect Ricardo Gomez Osnaya visited and celebrated the Holy Eucharist at the home of George Fulton. Bishop Lino met with Fr. Bob Webster and Fr. Michael Schirmacher on November 16 to renew their license to celebrate through February. On January 18 Bishop Lino extended their licenses through February 1, 2019.

Throughout this transition, Sunday morning services continued without fail, with attendance from August through November varying from about 12 to 30.

On November 5, 2017 we celebrated All Saints' Day in our new palapa located at Plaza Genovesa. As the congregation has experienced so many changes, Fr. Bob and Fr. Michael have tried to limit liturgical changes as necessary. One exception has been the addition of Spanish verses to hymns. (Fr. Michael mentioned one Sunday service in June when 2/3 of the congregation was Spanish-speaking, but there still was no integration of Spanish into the liturgy.) Another notable exception has been the inclusion of children's sermons offered creatively and effectively by MaryBeth Kester. Other changes introduced have included a rotation of Eucharistic Prayers, and a brief musical reflection following sermons. A Liturgical Advisory Committee has been formed to offer suggestions to the clergy concerning the Liturgy and to help coordinate efforts between Altar Guild, musicians, church property, and service bulletins.

Fr. Michael noted and gave thanks for the continued musical offerings of Robert Dunger and Alex O'Neill, and for the superb new keyboard accompaniment offered by Jean-Gu Comeau. George Fulton was given credit for many visual enhancements to the liturgy, including vestments and a processional cross.

Fr. Michael encouraged the congregation in their beginning of a search process to select clergy that can become more permanent and be accorded stronger recognition from the Diocese and congregation. The national Iglesia Anglicana de México Constitution and Canons regarding a parish's call of a rector are much simpler than those of the U.S. Episcopal Church. Fr. Michael nonetheless encouraged the congregation to undergo a search process that would include a serious self-study of the congregation, including perhaps a parish survey and a parish self-description for the consideration of potential clergy candidates.

Fr. Schirmacher distinguished between the roles of the following: These distinctions may not be as clear in the Iglesia Anglicana de México as they are in the Episcopal Church (The IAM Constitution and Canons closely follow those of the Episcopal Church, but have significant, usually simpler, variations).

Supply priests usually supply services and sermons in the absence of regular clergy. They are not necessarily involved in the mission of the Church beyond Sunday and holiday services except as asked by the vestry. When paid, they are paid per service. Fr. Bob and Fr. Michael currently serve as volunteer supply priests.

Interim priests are priests who have received special training in facilitating the changes and transition for congregations between permanent clergy. In the US Episcopal Church they are generally discouraged, if not prohibited, from becoming the permanent rector or vicar.

Priests-in-charge are priests who generally have all rights and responsibilities of a Rector, but are more temporary (i.e., they may be contracted for a certain period of time, whereas Rectors are expected to have tenure.) They may then be chosen as Rector.

Vicars are priests of a **mission church** rather than of a **parish**. A **Parish**, which has been recognized as self-supporting by the Synod, is generally autonomous and has the right to call their own **rector** (priest of a parish), within limits designated in the Canons.

The status of each the current two congregations of Christ Church by the Sea (i.e., Plaza Genovesa and airport locations) are under review by the Diocese. In Fr. Michael's view it is possible, though very unlikely, that either congregation could revert to mission status. If either congregation became a mission, the clergy would be appointed by the Bishop, not selected by the vestry.

Regardless, the congregation is in God's hands, and has capable clergy (Fr. Bob and Fr. Michael) providing services now. To ensure continuity of services, Bishop Lino has agreed to commission more Lay Eucharistic Ministers for our congregation, once we have submitted applications and they have been commissioned. Fr. Lawrence Maskarenhas, from the Anglican Church of Canada, has offered to help with services through Easter. Sister Carol Bernice will arrive this May to offer her help as well. The Rev. Andrew Hybl, Dean of Students at the Church Divinity School of the Pacific, will be visiting Puerto Vallarta regularly and offering help. Fr. Hybl has also broached with us the idea of offering a weeklong "cultural immersion" experience for a group of CDSP students beginning as soon as next January.

In Fr. Michael's experience, we are indeed enjoying success with our ever-changing congregation. He reminds us, however, (in the words of Mother Teresa) that God requires us not so much to be successful, but to be faithful.