

The Cathedral Church of St. Luke

143 State Street

Portland, ME 04101

Minutes of the Annual Meeting, February 23, 2025

Held in person and livestreamed

The Annual Meeting of the Cathedral Church of St. Luke was called to order at 11:40 AM with prayer. Approval of the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting was moved, seconded and approved. Interim Dean Rev. George Stevens read a Territorial Acknowledgement.

The ballot for parish leadership and representation was explained and nominees introduced. The Rev. Dr. Bob Hanson was added as a write-in candidate for vestry from the floor. Votes were cast and collected. Peter Bingham and Georgia Bancroft were appointed to count the votes.

Interim Dean's Comments

Interim Dean George Stevens expressed his gratitude for everyone coming together at the annual meeting. It has been a year of joys and sorrows; a year of forward progress with a few steps back. He recalled the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) Survey that identified the parish has many strengths but also is encumbered with conflict – situational and systemic. He reminded us of the Conflict Transformation process that culminated in a World Café event. In November, the vestry began organizing committees to support the launch of a search for a new dean, a process that disappointingly broke down. In December, the bishop led a meeting during which the vestry identified four areas that needed attention before the cathedral is ready to launch a search:

- Understanding our shared Mission
- Practicing Hospitality – with our community, in our parish and with one another
- Renewing our approach to cathedral finances, stewardship and budget development
- Learning our role as the cathedral of the Maine Diocese

Pausing the launch of a search is hard, for some feeling like “lost time.” The bishop will instruct us on our role as cathedral. Three working groups will be formed, including members of the vestry and parishioners, to address the areas of Mission, Budget and

Hospitality. The work is intended to be as transparent as possible, and the working groups will be charged with engaging the parish.

Junior Warden's Comments

Junior Warden Jamie Cough reported on highlights of his detailed report in the Annual Report. Maintenance of this 20,000+ sq. ft. facility is largely done by dedicated volunteers for whom we are all grateful. He suggested parishioners consider “adopting” responsibility for care of a portion of the cathedral grounds. The many updates in the Annual Report include roof repairs, a new security system and renovation of the apartment.

10% was trimmed from the maintenance budget, leaving it “bare bones.” Looking ahead, tower repairs and parking lot management need attention. Multiple vendors are being considered for parking lot management.

Work by the Junior Warden, Past Treasurer Tim Wilkins and the Finance Committee identified issues with the cathedral budget, projected future needs and ideas for improving the financial situation. This can serve as a starting point for current planning.

Junior Warden Cough expressed thanks for Acting Junior Warden Fred Fowler’s service and his ongoing hand-on support for the cathedral.

A parishioner expressed concern about the condition of the parking lot during the recent cold, snowy period. The cathedral is working with a new vendor to resolve the problems noted.

Senior Warden's Comments

Senior Warden Sam Allen expressed his appreciation for the many people who have expressed thanks recently. He expressed his appreciation for the many who helped him behind the scenes including Fred Fowler, George Stevens, George Cooper, Jack Swanton and Rev. Anne Fowler.

He noted that the average pledge has increased this year while the number of pledging units has declined. Budget deficits have steadily decreased the past three years, but largely due to vacant staff positions and removing \$20,000/year contingency budget item. The vestry refers to it as a “scarcity budget.”

Senior Warden Allen spoke of missing the parish and community events of past years – community suppers, silent auctions, and Parking Lot Picnics. They were opportunities to practice hospitality. He remembers the leaders and gently challenged those in attendance that, without volunteer leadership, events like those won’t happen.

Vestry Resolution of Appreciation

A resolution of thanks and appreciation for Samuel Miller Allen from the vestry was read (see attached.)

Open Discussion

The floor was open for questions and discussion. The Interim Dean asked everyone to consider a question from Treasurer Randi Hogan, "Imagine it's five years from now, 2030, and the cathedral is thriving. What do you see as the most meaningful way we have changed to make this happen?"

An attendee asked if non-parishioners can pledge and volunteer. Yes, they can.

Another encouraged us as a parish to lower barriers to engagement of the wider community. How we are perceived by the community is directly tied to our mission.

We were encouraged to become more aware of the Walking Together initiative.

One asked if we need to become more open to changing worship practices. What is our willingness to change?

Hospitality extends to the community and internally, for example, as a refreshment ministry.

Another suggested we consider launching a school or cathedral-supported theological education, as Bangor Theological School once did. Could education become a cornerstone of our mission?

Could we partner more closely with Maine Needs? Promote St. Elizabeth's more?

Expressions of Appreciation

Appreciation was expressed for the many years of service of former Treasurer Tim Wilkins, who stepped down during the year. Catherine Hyde was thanked for her service on the vestry as she completes her term of service. Appreciation was expressed for Michael Thorne's years of service on the vestry. Dan McDonald was thanked for his years of service as Clerk and on the vestry as he completes his term of service. Additional thanks were expressed to Sam Allen for leading Noon Zoom.

Interim Dean Stevens reminded all that gratitude, hopefulness and patience are needed now.

Election Results

Senior Warden:	Jon Hennessy
Vestry:	Peter Carleton
	Laura Lyons
	Catherine Hyde
Delegates to Diocesan Convention:	Sam Allen
	Sara Braik
	Fred Fowler
	Philip Hamilton
	Susan McCullar

The meeting was closed in prayer led by Interim Dean Stevens at 1:02 PM. A motion to adjourn was moved, seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bancroft

Clerk

Resolution Honoring Samuel Miller Allen

WHEREAS, Sam has faithfully and tirelessly served the Cathedral Church of St. Luke's, Portland, Maine, as Junior (2015-2018) and Senior Warden (2019-2020 and 2023-2025); and

WHEREAS, as Junior Warden and Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Sam learned everything there is to know about the buildings and their systems and kept them in good repair, including reconstruction of the Lancet windows, new window inserts; cleaning of the Sanctuary floor, construction and installation of pew racks for hymnals and prayer books; acquisition of cushions for all the pews, and countless other unknown projects; and

WHEREAS, Sam oversaw the modernization of the Cathedral's bylaws; and

WHEREAS, As Tech Pro, Sam facilitated live-streaming of services during Covid; procured hearing assistance devices; and enhanced internet access throughout the Cathedral; and

WHEREAS, Sam was Ecclesiastical Authority the summer of 2023, oversaw everything and generally served as the "Go to Guy" for anything having to do with the Cathedral, all the while serving with competence, confidence, modesty and patience,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LESSER CHAPTER OF THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. LUKE, IN MEETING ASSEMBLED, THAT THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS THEREOF HEREBY

Express their gratitude, thanks, and admiration for Sam's abundant service to the Cathedral over many years; and further

Express their appreciation for Sam's friendship, character, gentleness, reliability, patience, trust, discretion and wisdom; and further

Look forward to Sam's continued presence among us as he takes on new responsibilities and challenges in the years to come.

DONE IN PORTLAND, MAINE, THIS 19th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2025.

Thomas Brown, Bishop of Maine

George Stevens, Interim Dean

James Cough, Junior Warden

Randi Hogan, Treasurer

Nancy Brain

Catherine Hyde

Stan Kuziel

Mary Linneman

Dan McDonald

Jamie Moore

Eleanor Roberts

John Bancroft, Clerk