

## **2019 Annual Meeting of the Vergers' Guild**

10-26-2019

Camp Allen, Texas

The meeting was called to order by Scott Smith, President at 11:12 am.

Quorum established by Diane Carlisle, Secretary

Opening Prayer was led by The Rev. Walt Kindergan, Chaplain

Scott presented the agenda.

### **Introductions**

Scott introduced Board members of the VGEC:.

- Class of 2019
  - Barry Norris (not present as he is in the hospital) and Richard Parker, *one board slot open*
- Class of 2020
  - Michael Sanchez, Scott Smith, and John Whitaker.
- Class of 2021
  - Diane Carlisle and Vyonne Carter-Johnson, *one board slot open*

Scott identified the current officers of the Board.

- Scott Smith, President
- Richard Parker, Vice President
- Diane Carlisle, Secretary
- John Whitaker, Treasurer

### **Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were presented by Diane Carlisle (they were emailed to the guild). Betty Moore moved to approve, and David Deutsch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Chaplain's Report - Walt Kindergan**

Walt reported that he was thrilled to be at the conference and continuing his role of Chaplain of the VGEC. He said that we no longer maintain the guild prayer list on the vergers.org web site due to inactivity. However, please feel free to email him to talk or for prayers.

He reported the of those vergers who have died since the 2018 conference:

- Barbara Scott
- Margaret Johnson
- Deborrah Ann Bockhold
- Charles Skinner

- Norman Williams

### **Bylaws amendment - Walt Kindergan**

Advance notice of the Bylaws amendment along with complete information and a draft copy of the amendment were all made available to the membership in advance of the Annual Meeting.

Walt explained the reasons behind the amendments.

1. To improve the nominations process and the board elections
2. Change the way we vote
3. Make the annual meeting more accessible to all members
4. Clean up typos

Walt also noted that the plan is to live stream as much content from future conferences as possible. Richard Parker asked if we would still get bios before we vote on-line. The answer was yes. Walt explained we would move from a majority vote to a plurality vote.

*Duke DuTeil Moved to pass the amendments. Michael Brady seconded The vote was unanimous*

### **Board Elections Balloting**

The Nomination Committee members were:

- Martha-Sue Blythe, St Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church, Atlanta, GA
- Diane Grondin, Christ Church, Quincy, MA
- The Rev. Walter B. Kindergan, Christ Episcopal Church, Pensacola, FL
- Mr. Barry S. Norris FVGE, The Church of the Holy Spirit, Harleysville, PA
- Melita Thorpe, St Andrew Episcopal Church, Saratoga, CA

The nominees were:

- Martha-Sue Blythe, St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church, Atlanta, GA
- Thurl Headen, St. Luke's Cathedral, Portland, ME
- Ann Davis McClain, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Paris, KY
- Stephen Rowe, St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, Douglassville, PA
- Bob Shelton, St. Matthew's Parish, Hillsborough, NC
- John Townsend, Church of the Good Shepherd, Nashua, NH

Martha-Sue excused herself from the election process due to her being a candidate. The election led by Walt Kindergan and was governed by the VGE, Bylaws which were approved at the Annual Meeting 2018 Denver, Colorado. Ballots were passed out and directions for voting for four candidates was explained. The ballots were tallied by the remaining members of the Nomination Committee.

### **Committee Reports:**

Treasurers' Report - John Whitaker

John recognized Duke DuTeil who has been working with John on the Finance Committee this year as Financial Secretary. John shared the Balance Sheet. Our liquidity is good. Bank accounts: \$100,389.47.

Ruth Anne asked about the scholarship fund. She would like to see the scholarship amount raised to more than \$100. This money comes out of the Mark Emory Graham fund (last few years). There was some discussion. More people apply for scholarships than actually come. We could deplete the fund if we raise the grant amount. It was suggested that we open up the ability for people to donate to the scholarship fund. The board will continue to work on these issues. Profits and Loss: Membership is really down. Please renew dues as soon as you realize it is expired. Total income for 2019 - \$33,375.38, Total Expenses: \$44,333.60, Net Operating Income: -\$10,958.22.

#### Annual Conference Committee - Richard Parker

This is our first retreat setting. We have always been in big cities. This year we stayed in one place, no vestments, and no buses all over town. Richard asked if every other year (big city and retreat center) was a good idea. People thought it was a good idea.

Diane Carlisle announced that the conference in 2020 will be in Seattle, Washington September 24 - 27. More details will be available soon on the website [2020.vergers.org](http://2020.vergers.org). A video was shown (with excellent acting).

#### Chapter Committee - Richard Parker

#### Communication - Michael Sanchez

Michael gave a brief report on the ways that we interact with the guild. Michael asked for people to volunteer to help with communication as Michael and Scott are rolling off of the board next year. Vergers Voice, MailChimp email blasts, [vergers.org](http://vergers.org), [archives.org](http://archives.org), [facebook.com/vergers](http://facebook.com/vergers), V-List, [youtube.com/VergerTV](http://youtube.com/VergerTV). We would love to have an Instagram account. Scott appealed for someone to curate all of the photos that we have. Scott also talked about Verger TV.

#### Episcopal Relations - Scott Smith for Margaret McLarty

#### General Convention - Duke DuTeil

Barry and Duke will co-chair General Convention in 2021 in Baltimore. Other volunteers are needed for the long booth period. Duke talked about the booth that we had in Austin in 2018 and the cost savings measures that we employed.

#### Governance - Vyonne Carter-Johnson

Vyonne will work on financial review. She will work with the various committees to streamline them and make sure they are doing what they should be doing.

#### Guild Shop - Scott Smith for Barry Norris.

The shop is going well. You can go to [shop.vergers.org](http://shop.vergers.org). John Townsend is filling in for Barry at the shop at Camp Allen as Barry is in the hospital. Stephen Rowe is now assistant manager of the shop and will be transitioning into shop manager soon.

#### Membership - Diane Carlisle

Diane reported on where we stand. Bottom line we have 1175 active members and 1629 expired members. We will be retiring our current database and will institute a new membership system. This will happen early in 2020. Melilta and Scott are working on a new conference registration system for 2020. Scott asked for our patience. Martha-Sue (hopefully) will take the lead in getting us into a new system.

#### Technology - Scott Smith

Darrin Herndon resigned as technology person. We will be migrating to a new membership system, phasing out Amazon Cloud services. We will continue to use G-Suite for email and collaboration and zoom.us for video meetings as well as other VGEC technology resources.

#### Training - Duke DuTeil

49 new fellows, 13 present at the conference. The training course operations continue moving forward successfully.

#### **Election Results:**

##### *3 year Term*

- Martha-Sue Blythe
- Ann Davis McClain
- John Townsend

##### *2 year Term*

- Thurl Headen

The board will meet to elect officers on November 20, 2019.

Lots of people moved to adjourn and many more seconded it.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Carlisle, Secretary