

Dear Sisters and Brothers of St. Peter's Parish,

I hope this finds you well in this Christmas season amid the COVID 19 pandemic and economic challenges, which seem for many a continued walk in darkness. The Church must stand with the children of God regardless of class, status, age, or gender. Our work is critical to others experiencing hope. Moreover, our faith in God assures us that hope is on the way. However, to realize our mission initiatives, we must take council to plan and legislate our common life. Thus, according to our Letters of Incorporation, our Annual General Meeting must occur on the Wednesday after the Second Sunday. In 2021, Jan 13th, 7 pm is our appointed date and time.

Due to the global pandemic and the need to adhere to the protocols and observe social distancing, the meeting will be via Zoom. To facilitate this, we need your assistance in this matter.

At this meeting, you will hear several reports, including the parish's financial health, the Ministry Plan for 2021, and most importantly, electing members to serve on the Vestry. This year we will be selecting one Warden and Three Vestry persons to work alongside the Rector to ensure St. Peters fully engages in God's mission, as it seeks to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. The Church's mission is exercised through prayer and worship, proclaiming the Gospel, and promoting justice, peace, and love. (BCP p854)

Members of the parish who meet the following criteria are eligible to nominate and vote in the said election –

Members in Good Standing (*adapted from the Canons of EDLI*)

All St. Peter's Church members who have attended church and/or have received Holy Communion at least three times in the preceding year (one of which included Easter). For the previous year, they have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for a good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing.

Responsibilities and duties of Elected Officers

Warden and Vestry – *Please see attached Notice of Requirements Document.*

Nominations

Members who have discerned God's call on their hearts to serve on the Vestry must be nominated and seconded by members who are in Good Standing – (see above).

Nomination forms can be obtained from the office (718-528-1356) or our website www.stpetersrosedale.org. The Form must be returned no later than midnight January 4th, 2021, either scanned and emailed to Mrs. Phyllis Harris Williams – Chair of the Nominating Committee - phyllise41@hotmail.com or sent in a sealed envelope to her attention and placed in the Rectory mailbox or delivered to the church during office hours.

Elections.

Due to constraints brought about by the global pandemic, which limits our ability to gather physically, **no** nominations will be taken from the floor on the day of the election. If deemed necessary by the Presiding Officer in consultation with the Chancellor/Parliamentarian following our Bylaws, nominations may be allowed from the floor on the day of the election.

Ballots for Election

Ballots will be mail or delivered by Thursday, January 7th, and should be returned no later than midnight January 12th, 2021, in sealed envelopes with the designation – ST. PETER'S BALLOT 2021. In case of extenuating circumstances, we will begin the meeting on January 13th and adjourn until a feasible date, likely January 17th, 2021.

Please note each member in good standing is eligible to vote. Members must initial their ballots to reconcile with our list of eligible members who are in good standing.

Commissioning of the Vestry

The Elected Vestry will be commissioned on January 17th, 2021. In the case of extenuating circumstances on January 24th, 2021, during the 9 am liturgy.

I invite you to pray with me the following prayers –

Prayer for our Parish

Almighty and ever-living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family of St. Peter's. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church: through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for our Annual Meeting

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in St. Peter's for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I hope this note is helpful as we prepare to conduct our parish business in a new world.

In Christ.

The Rev. Steve Foster
VI Rector.