2025 AGM PACKAGE

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

AGM AGENDA

February 9th, 2025

1)	Opening prayer	Est. 2min
2)	Appointment of Recording Secretary and Declaration of Membership	5min
3)	Adoption of Agenda	
4)	Approval of Minutes of 2024 Annual Meeting (Included below)	
5)	Celebrations, God-moments, and motions of thanks	10min
6)	Reception of Parish Life Reports	
7)	Rector's Ministry Report	7min
8)	Financial Report and Proposed Budget for 2025	15min
9)	Leaders for the new year:	15min
	a) Commissioning of Visioning Group and Synod Delegates	
	b) Motion to approve church signing authorities: Rector, Stewards &	
	Treasurer (Corporation)	
	c) Appointment of 2025 Parish Accounts Examiner	
10)New Business	7min
	a) Solar Project with SPICE	
11)Closing prayers	
	/~	61min

Thank you for your prayers and presence here today!

PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES

February 11th, 2024 St. Augustine's Anglican Church, 6110 Fulton Rd., Edmonton, AB, T6A 3T3

- 1) Opening prayer @ 11:30am
- 2) Appointment of Recording Secretary and Declaration of Membership Christa McMillan was appointed as recording secretary.
 Declaration of Membership = 34 members present (28 in person, 6 online)

In attendance:

Caitlin Beaton	Dawn Miller	Mikaela Hanley
June Greig	Megan Crane	John Hanley
Cara Robertson	Pat Jameson	Christiane Cork
Andrew Robertson	Val McCormack	Simone Klann
Amanda McAuley	Cheryl Arbury	Phyllis Molyneux
Christa McMillan	Eileen Fairbrother	Clayton Ernst
Grant Kemp	Kaylee Sparling	Lindsay Batke
Anne Wightman	Joe Sparling	Jenny Nunes
Aaron Parker	Lauretta Howard	Deana Thomson
Jacqui Chesterton	Patricia Peel	Margaret Green
Randy Yeo	Eileen Perlau	-
Rita Yeo	Fran Chester	-

3) Adoption of Agenda

Jonathan Crane moved to approve the agenda. Joe Sparling seconded. Motion approved.

 Approval of Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting (Included below) Changes to be made: Pat Jameson spelled incorrectly. Jonathan Crane moved to approved slightly amended minutes. Anne Wightman seconded. Motion approved.

 Celebrations, God-moments, and motions of thanks *10 minutes* Jonathan Crane: thanks to Cheryl for the daily tasks, Jodi for space use, wardens/stewards – Mikaela & Val.

Lauretta Howard: Thank you Megan for the amazing music week to week.

Megan Crane: Thank you for everyone involved in Simple Suppers, so many people have come forward and it's been wonderful seeing that in the community again.

Pat Jameson: Randy & Rita Yeo All the cleaning, painting, organizing that is done for our buildings.

Aaron Parker: The kids program and how the liturgy is explained so well.

Cara Robertson: Thanks to Faith and Simone for taking on such a large role that helps parents come.

Christiane Cork: Thanks for Simone, all the work she puts into the kids program.

Rita Yeo: Thank you to Anne for preparing Gathering Around the Kitchen Table, all the work and preparation is appreciated.

Many other thanks (Not all of them typed due to technical difficulties)

6) Reception of Parish Life Reports
 Jonathan Crane motioned to approve.
 Andrew Richardson seconded.
 Motion approved.

 Rector's Ministry Report 20 minutes Where we are?

- Four congregations worshiping in one place

- Many, many communities, groups, and friends using the space

Where do we go?

- *Communitas* has several different approaches where people in the community are equal and are able to access the same experiences.

Aspen Communitas perhaps this is who we are: visual provided that reflects what we are already doing, series of dots.

Biomimicry: Nature has it all figured out, we just need to use it the principles.

The Church has struggled with sustainability, but perhaps using the forest ecosystem as an example, we need to have a biodiverse, integrated ecosystem. Inside the parish, how can we tap into the biodiversity of gifts in our parish to strengthen the church community. Allow people to choose what they feel passion for and give them their own authority to pursue their passions in their domains.

8) Financial Report and Proposed Budget for 2024 5 minutes

- It's been an interesting process of seeing where we were to where we are.
- Huge deficit to a surplus.
- We want to keep a reign in spending.
- Projects:
 - Washrooms \$5000 grant
 - Soundproofing and Baffles put up this week, extra ones could go in the annex.
 - Fundraising Trivia Night, including others to follow with the nice weather coming up.
- Still awaiting information from the accountant, but upon that she will provide a report and will provide information quarterly.
- Afterwards, if you have any questions, please email the church, <u>office@staugustinesedmonton.com</u>

Cheryl Arbury motioned to accept the budget for 2024. Joe Sparling seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9) Leaders for the New Year:

a) Commissioning of Visioning Group and Synod Delegates

Jonathan Crane motioned to approve names listed for Vision Group, with Jodi Howard added.

Andrew Richardson seconded.

Motion carried.

Amanda McAuley motioned to approve names listed for Synod Delegates, including the People's Steward.

Dawn Miller seconded.

Motion carried.

b) Motion to approve church signing authorities (Directors): Rector, stewards & treasurer.

Christa McMillan makes a motion to approve Jonathan Crane, Mikaela Hanley, Steve McAuley and Cheryl Aubury as signing authorities. Cara Robertson seconded.

Motion carried.

c) Appointment of 2023 Parish Accounts Examiner

Jennifer Solland will cost us the regular amount, name given by the accountant.

Cheryl Arbury motioned to accept Jennifer Solland as the Parish Accounts Examiner.

Lauretta Howard seconded.

Motion carried.

- 10) New Business
 - a) **PWRDF** Representation

Jonathan Crane motioned to make Anne Wightman and Peter Wightman representative for St. Augustine's of Canterbury. Val McCormack seconded. Motion carried.

12) Closing prayers @12:40pm

Pat Jameson motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Jackie Chesterton seconded.

Motioned carried.

Meeting 70 minutes.

Celebrations

WHAT ARE CELEBRATING THIS YEAR?

- Sacred wandering, growth of Kids Church, return of simple suppers
- Having found a church that works at been good stewards of God's creation
- Birth and growth of my great grandson Kayden and that his mother and father are joining me at St. A's when able.
- I celebrate the presence of so many wonderful talented compassionate people who make out parish a place filled with joy a place that is life giving. The beautiful enthusiastic children are a bonus!
- Lots of things to celebrate, but what stands out for me is all the kids and the wonderful job Simone does with them. A highlight were the Christmas cards with the kids drawings and the lovely way Aaron made them into the cards.
- Christmas Eve service
- The sermon on Baptism as it powerfully called us to take seriously the promises made on the day of our baptism
- Ignatian Exercises and learning how to move closer to Trinity God.
- The presence of our Lord is so palpable everywhere. The various ways that each one of us experiences our God is valued in our community. There is no right way and this is encouraged our individual experiences are valued.
- God truly shines through the beautiful people at St. A's especially with their love and prayers when one is struggling.

WHAT IS YOUR PRAYER FOR THE ST. A'S COMMUNITY AND OUR WIDER DIOCESAN FAMILY AS WE MOVE INTO THE 2025 YEAR?

- Be the voice of humanity, acceptance and love in our community.
- That more people discover they have a home in the Anglican Church
- Continued growth and community building.
- More churches like ours!!"
- To continue to pray for and practice love, joy and hope for all.

Strength to Strength 2.0 Revisited

In late May 2023, the whole parish of St. Augustine's church was invited to participate in a decade visioning event for the church. The main goal was, "to capture what gifts we have received from our history, who we are now, and where we are going as a parish in the next 5 years."

Where we have been

<u>St. A's has always been</u>: hospitable, a worshipping community in SE Edmonton, a gathering space for many groups; a learning and teaching centre; outreach focused; friendly and accepting; non-fussy and real; engaging within and without; a place of spiritual nurture and presence shaped in authentic liturgy and inspiring music; a place where you can have fun and joy; a place where children are welcome in worship; a homey comfortable place.

Where we are

We are now: continuing to grow from healthy roots; a safe place: open to people to support their faith; Both traditional and innovative; regrouping from COVID and welcoming new members; limited in our broad artistic expression (memories of dancing on Pentecost, theatre, and other arts); vibrant and ready for new challenges; excited about the future; a committed and accepted participant in the local community; a place of hope within hopelessness around us; opening our doors to dynamic and diverse community interactions; The children of God just waking up!; life-long learners.

Where we are going *Some specific focuses to develop.*

- Involving youth in their areas of skills (12 votes)
- Small groups & bible studies (11)
- Outdoor services with ice cream! (10)
- Build Labyrinth (9)
- Jr./Sr. High safe gathering space (8)
- Connect and Enable people with similar interests and skill sets they can share (i.e. pickles, pie, sauerkraut, etc.) (8)
- Supports to parents of adolescents (8)

S2S prayer

Wise Creator, Provider, Holy Mystery, You have brought us this far and kept us connected. You have brought us, all together, back to the beginning and inspired us to reimagine and reilluminate our mission. You have opened our minds to new possibilities and given us many new gifts and new energies. Give us courage, hope, direction, guidance, perspective, and clarity, so that we may act boldly, confidently, kindly, and prudently. And to actually get things done. Through Jesus Christ our companion and guide on the way. Amen.

Parish Life Reports

Kid's Church

We've had another great year in Kids Church, with typically around 12 kids attending. The age range spans 4-13 years, so we look for activities that work across ages, and seek out opportunities to build community connection between the older and younger kids. Last February, we celebrated Carnival and the start of Lent with a big party that included face painting and clowns. It was a hit!

The children also learned about the colors, symbols and seasons of the church year. This was a high interest topic that generated lots of questions. We hope to cover it again this year.

In the Fall, the kids raised close to \$500 for PWDRF supports to help children in Haiti, by collecting money in church and completing a walking fundraiser. They enjoyed learning a bit about Haitian geography, culture and language. And they also enjoyed counting the money as it came in! Everyone agreed they would like to do a fundraiser again to help a community in need.

This past Fall, we started walking through the Old Testament, reviewing the Ten Commandments and some other exciting stories.

We also enjoyed crafts like baking, dough art, painting and drawing.

Just before Christmas, the kids were involved in a Christmas pageant production, The Grumpy Shepherd. They made most of the props and practiced for weeks in advance. They did a fabulous job! We also really appreciated the help and contributions of many parishioners.

On any given Sunday, you'll find us reading and discussing Bible stories and their relevance to us today, playing musical chairs, making popcorn and sometimes even enjoying a quick game of toilet tag!

We were happy to have 5-6 friends from Church of South India (CSI – who meet in the Annex) join us at the start of the New Year and we look forward to getting to know them better.

A big thank you to those who have been regular adult helpers in Kids Church over the last year.

Looking forward to another great year!

Simone Klann, Children's Ministry Leader

St. A's Youth

2024 kickstarted a new youth group at St. A's! So far activities have included bowling, rock climbing, retro-gaming, and sledding. We are grateful for the leadership of John Prokopuk and Grant Kemp!

Altar Guild

The 14 Altar Guild members work mostly behind the scene at St. A's. We have 4 teams who arrange to meet on their scheduled weekend to set up the Altar for Sunday service, changing the hangings to the appropriate colour, when necessary, dust the woodwork, tidy the children's area as well as the Narthex. Joanne Oaks takes care of what is needed for the 8:00 am service. Joanne's help is very much appreciated. We also set up for any Weddings and Funerals as needed.

We would like to welcome our newest members to the Altar Guild, John Hanley, and his daughter Isabel, Deana Thomson and Joanne Hoch. We are very happy to have you join the Altar Guild.

A heart felt thank you to all parishioners who made special donations through out 2024 to the Altar Guild for flowers and who helped with decorating the church for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. It was so lovely to have the children help with decorating the Christmas tree. It got a little crazy, but was great fun and Jonathan always treats us to eggnog. The sanctuary always looks so special.

A special thank you to Bob Peel for the many repairs he took care of in the sanctuary. Finally, the cup hooks on the lectern have been taken care of, a problem we have had for many years.

We are also very saddened by the lost of a long-time member of the Altar Guild, Linda Kizan. Linda helped with some of the designing and sewing for the altar hangings as well as the linens. Linda is missed for her keen sense of humor and great cupboard cleaning skills. Linda will be sorely missed by us all.

Please come and join us at the Altar Guild. We would love to welcome all new members to the Guild and it takes only a few hours of your time a month.

Finally, just a date to remember, Pancake Supper will be held on March 4th this year. More in the weeks to come on that.

Respectfully Submitted by

Eileen Fairbrother - Altar Guild President

Jane Nunes – President Assistant

Simple Supper

Simple suppers continue every last Friday of the month with food prepared by church volunteers. We are delighted to have a range of 40-70 community and church folk who

attend these meals. Great thanks to Christa MacMillan for organizing! Please contact her for more information on helping out.

ICPM Lunch

INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2024

At the Bissell Centre - 10527 - 96 Street

Sharing this ministry with St. Luke's Anglican Church

St. Augustine's Church has contributed annually since January 1985. We are one of 50 churches and Groups in the Faith communities supporting Inner City Pastoral Ministry. FOOD REQUESTED;

100 Lunches in large clear plastic bags

- all items must be in original sealed bags

- -100 packages of chips or tacos or similar product
- 100 packages of protein bars of breakfast bars no nutribars of substitutes
- 100 packages of cheese & amp; crackers or peanut butter & amp; crackers
- 100 pks of cheese, individually wrapped
- 100 oranges in a box do NOT put in lunch bags
- 100 bananas in a box do NOT put in lunch bags
- 100 juice boxes to go into lunch bags
- 100 bottles of water do NOT put in lunch bags

Additional Supplies:

- 1 large container of coffee
- 1 10 lb bag of white sugar
- 1 large coffee mate

All items were delivered to the Bissell Centre between 09:00 and 09:15 AM on Sunday morning.

Parishioners were very generous donating dollars and food items and their time to put all the Food

and juice carefully into large clear plastic bags, in short time. THANKS TO ALL. Saint Augustine's is very proud to participate in this very worthwhile project.

June Greig

Ignatian Exercises offered at St. Augustine's

If you are longing, yearning, desiring for a deeper relationship with the Holy One this is a path for you.

This program was developed by the experience of St Ignatius of Loyola 500 years ago while he recovered from a leg injury received in the war. It is amazing that this year-long schedule of daily prayer and discovery, designed to support an inner transformation, is even more relevant in today's age of technology.

The program begins every September. This year four individuals have been praying through the process and meeting with us weekly to discern God's voice in them.

For more information please contact our team of experienced Spiritual Directors

Rev. Jonathan Crane and Pat Jameson.

Property

2024 was a productive year for the team. Early 2024, a good amount of time was spent on refreshing the lower annex to be used as a community space /coffee gathering. The entire space was painted, including the kitchen cabinetry inside and out to allow for cleanliness, the kitchen window was replaced, 12 used chandeliers were painted and installed, the remaining sound baffles from the lower hall were hung, a few shelves were hung, and a beautiful mural was completed which resulted in a cosy space to be enjoyed by the community. Excess used chairs were sold and the proceeds were used to put back into the annex refresh. Both washrooms in the lower hall were refreshed this year. This was a major undertaking as toilets were removed so that new flooring was installed, a new pot light above the toilets in the women's washrooms was added, walls and ceilings were painted, new countertops, new light fixtures, motion sensors, new taps and a urinal divider in the men's washroom were completed, all within a week so that the space use was uninterrupted. Door hardware was installed in the upper annex which gave the capability of separating and locking the upper and lower annex space so that when in use, the public would not have access to the whole building. A new metal office door and industrial lock were installed and painted. Since the upper outer annex door was delaminating, it was repaired and painted and a kick plate added. The lower annex entrance was painted, composite floor tiles outside the outer door, a new light fixture added and hardware added to the door to create a more secure area. A shop vac was purchased for use in both buildings. Asbestos testing was completed on the floor tiles in the lower hall and the presence of asbestos has been confirmed. This will help for future planning to maintain or replace flooring as the removal of tiles could be a significant cost (Note: this is not a current health concern). Basement windows - as part of the ongoing investigation to replace basement windows in both buildings, 3 quotes were received. 5 windows were repaired in total. We want to thank some of the external trades who participated in some of this work who either worked for free or gave the church significant discounts to get our projects done.

Rita & Randy Yeo, Bob Peel

Memorial Garden

Enjoyable time was spent in the garden moving and splitting existing perennials, planting some donated perennials and maintaining the space throughout the summer. The lattice and signage were given a coat of varnish for maintenance. A new hose was purchased, and a new garden bench was purchased to provide a space for quiet time and meditation for

the community. Thank you to the Community Garden who supplied some annuals to provide some color to the garden!

Rita Yeo

Book Club

The Book Club continues to meet on the last Tuesday of the month (except in the summer and December) at 10:30 at St. Augustine's. Books are chosen in June from suggestions from members. We are always looking for new members to enhance our discussion and reading list choices.

Phyllis Molyneux

A Spiritual Retreat at Strawberry Creek

Over the many years, St. Augustine's retreats at Strawberry Creek have been many things for many people. Maybe a place of healing, rest or even sorrow. For me, it was a place of vulnerability.

In serendipitous alignment, I found myself able to go for the first time last year. At first it was a chance for me to be away without my husband or children. To recharge and relax in a way I felt I needed to. As the time came nearer, I realized what a special time this could be and I was determined to make the most of it. I threw myself into every different experience.

I walked away from my time at Strawberry Creek with a true understanding of connection, with God, myself and an unbreakable link forged on a Saturday night full of wine and cheese.

It may seem trite to say it changed my life, but there's no other way that I can truly describe my experience at Strawberry Creek.

Joanne Hoch

*This year's retreat will be held from May 30 to June 1. Contact Pat Jameson for more information.

St. A's and Grace United

This past year, Rev. Jonathan, Rev. Chelsey and Rev. Hugh met together to connect, plan, and continue our local Anglican-United conversation. Often these meetings are simply clergy support – debriefing what is happening in our congregations. We also plan out any joint activities like the Blue Christmas service at Grace and Ash Wednesday at St. A's. It continues to be a fruitful connection in the area as we are both discerning how to support the people we serve and this area in which we are planted as churches.

It is also delightful that, after a COVID blip, the wider area ministerial has begun to meet again as well!

Rev. Jonathan

New Social Justice Team

St. Augustine's has been a member organization of the Greater Edmonton Alliance since 2005. We have supported them through many times of management turmoil. They are currently in turmoil again, and the feeling in latter part of 2024 of the St. A's GEA group is that they were of little help. Our group decided that we should not pay dues for 2025, but put that money towards a St. A's group to be called the Social Justice Team.

I recommend that in a year's time we re-evaluate the situation. The umbrella group that GEA is a part of, IAF, is a worldwide group with 80 years of experience in social action and it may be of benefit to remain a member of it as we seek to Live Christ in Community through meaningful action.

If being a part of a St. A's Social Justice Team catches your attention, please let us know!

Submitted by Joe Sparling alongside Erin Miller (chair), Amy Kellestine, and Rev. Jonathan

Rewilding Update

We are:

NURTURING OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LAND THROUGH RESTORATIVE ECOLOGICAL DESIGN, EDUCATION, AND SACRED COMMUNITY SPACE.

These are the words developed by the small steering committee of church members and community stakeholders who have been dreaming about what this land at St. A's needs to be. The native landscape around Edmonton is actually a very unique biome – "aspen parkland," how do we honor this reality, use native plants in design, while creating a space that the community wants to enjoy? Back in 2014 we talked about St. A's being a "community hub" – how might we design our land to be this for years to come?

2024 has been a big year for rewilding as we have actually created two new native shrub beds and installed the basic labyrinth structure. We are still waiting for the Epcor LID to be installed. At last word, a project manager is in place to oversee this project in the construction months. There is no cost to the Epcor initiatives. Notably in 2023, we received \$600 from our GoFundMe page, close to \$1000 from fundraising, \$1000 from a local community grant (yay Sherry!), \$10000 from a Trees Canada grant (yay Christa), and \$5000 from an Anglican Foundation grant. We sought to use all funds possible working around the limits and possibilities of each grant. Current committee membership is Sherry Prokopuk (church/neighbourhood), Michael Hamilton (neighbourhood), Megan Crane (church/neighbourhood), Christa MacMillan (church/neighbourhood) Julianna Weber (Grace United/Garden), Theo Harasymiw (neighbourhood/mural artist), & Rev. Jonathan (church/neighbourhood). If you are interested in helping shape the next steps, please connect!

Financial Report for 2024

The generosity of the parishioners and others who support the parish (both financially and through many hours of volunteer work) have again helped St A's attain a healthy financial position going into 2025 despite setbacks through break-ins and some unexpected expenses.

Predicted surplus for 2025 had increased over that of 2024 by quite a substantial amount. St A's seems to be sustaining and growing stronger. Final calculations have not been received from our accountant so hopefully we may be in even a better position. An update on this will be sent out when received into the office.

Projects completed in 2024

The \$5000 grant received for upgrading the washrooms in the Lower Hall was supplemented by some private donations and work was completed. All can agree that this was a job well worth doing.

The \$5000 grant received for the rewilding project has helped provide for additional planting and groundwork for the land surrounding our parish. We also received a grant from Trees Canada which provided reimbursement for both garden supplies and maintenance; we will also see additional trees and plants popping up in the new year which were covered by this money. Thanks to Christa for overseeing the implementation of the Trees Canada project.

Rentals continue to provide a large portion of our income, and this seems to be growing and developing constantly with many enquiries for our space coming in. 2024 saw both the arrival and departure of St Olga's.

Through their use of our space, we were able to complete the major acoustic project in the main church building and start a refresh of the annex basement.

Candlelight joined us in December; they are a major rental for us and their concerts are proving very well received according to the reviews that have come in.

Through personal donations we were able to secure a new organ for St A's and all were able to enjoy the initial benefit of this during the Christmas period.

This coming year will see a few new projects being undertaken. We are looking at upgrading and revitalizing our church sign and further upgrading our annex kitchen – money for both projects was donated last year. The church office will also see a much-needed new photocopier replace the our current one which is definitely on it's last legs.

The financial position going forward into 2024 looks promising, but we must continue to remain vigilant and keep a reign on spending. The current working budget is based on the minimum offerings that we receive so we are working with what we know we will have; this amount is often more but it is better to err on the side of caution. Expenses may be on the upper end of the spectrum and hopefully will be less. We are currently looking at replacing our bookkeeper with an in-house system which will be both cost effective and more efficient. We are also looking at altering our janitorial services; with increased usage of both the church and the annex there is a need for a high degree of hygiene and a professional look.

Hopefully there can be some events/fundraisers this year to compliment Simple Suppers which are going from strength to strength.

Cheryl Arbury, Treasurer

Financial Plan for 2025

St Augustine of Canterbury Working Budget 2025 (More detail available by request)

	Projected	
	2025	
Income		
Offerings	165,500	** guaranteed incoming**
(PAG, Tithe.ly, Cheque, Plate)		
One Time Donations	2500	
New International Church	2500	
Fundraising/Events	2000	
Rentals	43,600	
Memorial Garden	100	
Spiritual Direction	100	
Rector's Discretionary	500	
Interest	1000	
Other/Miscellaneous	4000	
Rainy Day Fund	2000	

Total Projected Income	
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223,800

Expenses - Core Costs	
Rector's salary & benefits	100,722.22
Apportionment	25,332
Diocesan PAG fees	95
Loan Interest	4,190
Utilities	18300
Phone/Internet	3,000
Insurance	9364
(includes \$100 to insurance deductible pool)	
Snow removal / Lawn Care	5000
AED, Fire, Lift inspections	750
Equipment/tech upgrade	2500
	169,253.22
Expenses - Operating Costs	
Clergy travel	200
Hospitality	600
Sunday Supply	740
Secretary	6000
Office execution	1500

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Secretary	6000
Office supplies	1500
Music Director	9,600
Music Supply	600
Music Maintenance	1,000
Music Supplies	250
Children's Ministry Leader	6,000
Youth Events	750
Children / Youth supplies	500
Daily Maintenance	3,000
Bookkeeper (Three Sisters) 2 months	840
Transition Assist to own bookkeeping system	500
Accountant (Financial year end report)	600
Janitorial	7,560
Janitorial supplies	1,000
Worship Supplies	750
Church Supplies	1,000
Anglican Foundation	50
Social Justice fund (previously GEA)	1,500

44,540.00

Total expense	213,793.22
Net surplus	10,006.78
Available Cash as of December 2024	
Barnett Fund	49662
Servus Credit Union	65000
Total Cash Available	114,662

Parish Officers 2025

Vision Group

The parish Vision Group fulfills our canonical vestry requirements but chooses to act in a format more fitting with our family-sized parish. Decisions are made via consensus; we keep things as casual as possible (usually wine and goodies) and meet only four times per year. We ask the questions like – Where are we going as a parish? What is God doing here? What is challenging us? If you are drawn to share in church leadership in this way, you are more than welcome! All members are elected at the AGM or appointed by virtue of their role in the church.

Here are the folks who have offered themselves for Vision Group this year:

Aaron Parker Anita Slomp Bob Peel (honorary clergy) Cheryl Arbury(Treasurer) Deana Thomson Helen Chan (Resident Deacon) Jacqui Chesterton Joanne Hoch Jodi Howard June Miller Mikaela Hanley (People's Steward) Pat Jameson Steve McAuley (Rector's Steward) Val McCormack Ven. Jonathan (Rector/chair)

Perhaps you are drawn to share in the work as well? Speak up at the meeting or let Rev. Crane know ahead of time. BIG THANK YOUS to Peter & Anne Wightman and Simone Klann for their offerings on Vision Group in this last term. Bless you!

Diocesan Synod Delegates

Our next diocesan synod is coming up in 2026, however, we are canonically required to have delegates in place should they be needed in an emergent situation. By diocesan matrices, we are allocated 4 delegates including the Rector. The following have offered their names:

Jacqui Chesterton, Mikaela Hanley, June Miller, Aaron Parker, Peter Wightman

Any others interested? Delegates will be determined by vote.

We are pleased that one of our delegates, Mikaela Hanley, has also been elected to the Executive Council of the Diocese as lay member for the East Region.

Installing Solar Panels at St. Augustine's

What are we proposing?

Installing solar panels of capacity 18.5kWp on our annex's roof and south wall. This is expected to generate 17,500kWh annually, cover 99% of our electricity bills and save approximately \$160,000 over 30 years.

Who is installing it?

We are working with SPICE (Solar Power Investment Cooperative of Edmonton). This is a co-operative organization who work with small investors, charities and non-profits to facilitate community solar power projects. They do not install the solar panels themselves but work with trusted partners.

How much does it cost?

We would be financing with SPICE over 15 years. This includes a downpayment of \$10,000 and then expected payments averaging \$412.76 a month. The expected average monthly electricity bill is a *credit* of \$20.55 a month. For comparison, our current average monthly electricity payments are \$360.08. The expected savings over 30 years are \$162,542. Thus in the short term this is a cost to the church, but with expected long term cost savings. Two major donations have come in already for the downpayment.

Why are we doing it?

First, to be good financial stewards of the money God has given us. If this will save the church significant amounts of money in the long term, then the future congregation of St. Augustine's thirty years from now will thank us.

Second, to be good stewards of God's creation. This will reduce the church's environmental impact by switching to renewal energy and away from irreplaceable fossil fuels. This is also a positive example to the rest of the community in Fulton Place, showing the church's care for our planet. This particularly matches the existing witness of St. Augustine's, through our community garden and rewilding project, where we strive to live up to our baptismal commitment to "respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth."

When can we do it?

Given the financial and future costs, this project requires the approval of the Parish at this AGM as well as from the Diocesan Executive Council meeting in late February. Following those approvals, SPICE is ready to begin applying for the permits needed and coordinating the installation. Although lead times on solar installation can be significant due to their popularity, we expect the project to be completed before Fall 2025.

Thank you

everyone!