Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral
Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Thursday, May 23, 2019

Members Present: The Very Rev. Evelyn Hornaday, Interim Dean; Paula Henderson Connors, Senior Warden; Jonathan Sternberg, Clerk; Phyllis Biddle; Sharon Cheers; Jeff Johnson; Kristen Ellis Johnson; Donna Knoell; Ron Michka; Ryan Thomas.

Others present: Richard Wolf, Financial Manager.

Absent: Terri Curran, Junior Warden; Candy McDowell; Richard Morse.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. in the Common Room. Mother Evelyn opened in a devotional and prayer.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting’s Minutes

Jonathan Sternberg presented the minutes from the previous Vestry meeting on April 25, 2019, corrected per e-mails previously received, plus including the names of the delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Donna Knoell moved to approve the minutes. Kristen Ellis Johnson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Financial Report

Richard Wolf presented the April 2019 financial report. We made a change in how budget accounting is done, pulling the end of the previous year into this year’s budget month-to-date so that the annual budget stays the same accounting for not receiving an expected $50,000 pledge amount. We’re taking the hit in April on the spreadsheets and annualizing it. This makes the budget numbers more realistic. We also did that with the Crowell Trust recurring bequest, to account for the market being down at the year-end and then better later on. The total we’re going to be short via the pledges is $50,000 and $9,500 per quarter from the Crowell trust.

Property expenses are much lower than usual, a large amount of which is because of large projects we’ve done, as well as doing repairs in-house rather than calling services. User fees are up, too, driving a lot by parking. Music, parish life, and education are all under budget, but most of that is just timing and expectations of when expenses will hit. Ending cash is healthy, at $113,000.

Approved June 27, 2019
We also received a nearly $300,000 bequest from 10-15 years ago out of the blue, of which we’ve received $211,000 so far but will receive the rest soon. This is an unrestricted bequest. Ordinarily, we put 40% in the Grace Fund, 40% in the Trinity Fund, and 20% in the Vestry Discretionary Fund. But given our lighting project, Dave Barker requests that we use that to pay the lighting contractor in full out of the $211,000 and then use the TIF grant already approved and previous funds to pay that back, and then put money back in the usual funds as prescribed.

Kristen Johnson moved to use the $211,000 to pay the lighting contractor and then use the TIF grant already approved and previous funds to pay that back, and then put the money 40% in the Grace Fund, 40% in the Trinity Fund, and 20% in the Vestry Discretionary Fund. Jonathan Sternberg seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote, with one vote in opposition.

3. Safety & Security Team Presentation

Sharon Cheers gave a presentation about safety and security in places of faith. She discussed the Safety and Security Committee, gave a list of resources, and presented their plan for security on Sundays and security generally.

The Vestry entered Executive Session at 6:49 p.m.

The Vestry left Executive Session at 7:42 p.m. and re-entered open session.

4. Dean’s Report

Mother Evelyn gave her report in writing, which is attached.

5. New Business

Ron Michka gave a report from the Community Engagement team, focusing on their efforts to connect with the outside community. They best thing they have going is their Cathedral Ambassadors program reaching out to specific community organizations. The Tuesday Conversations are also big.

Adjourned with closing prayer at 8:07 p.m. The next meeting of the Vestry will be Thursday, June 27, 2019.