

Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Thursday, January 16, 2020

Members present: The Very Rev. Andrew Keyse, Dean; Paula Henderson Connors, Senior Warden; Terri Curran, Junior Warden; Candy McDowell, Acting Secretary; Phyllis Biddle, Sharon Cheers, Jeff Johnson, Kristen Ellis Johnson, Ron Michka, Richard Morse; Ryan Thomas.

Members Absent: Jonathan Sternberg, Clerk; Donna Knoell.

Others present: David Telep, Treasurer; Steve Moore, Chancellor.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room by Dean Keyse who led the members of the Vestry in An Order of Worship for the Evening.

1. Minutes of the December 17, 2019 meeting:

Kristen Ellis Johnson was thanked for preparing the minutes of the December meeting.

Terri Curran moved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2019 meeting of the Vestry as presented.

Ryan Thomas seconded the motion.

Richard Morse requested that the minutes of the December meeting be amended to include the following statement:

“BE IT RESOLVED by the Vestry of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, Kansas City, Missouri, that the Vestry commends and thanks the Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral Search Committee for its hard work, diligence, and prayerful success, which led to the selection of Father Andrew Keyse as the Ninth Dean of the Cathedral.”

Sharon Cheers moved to amend the minutes by removing the names of the persons who voted Yea and Nay on Item 3: Budget Recommendation.

Ryan Thomas seconded the motion.

Motion passed. Therefore Paragraph 4 of Item 3 will read:

Yea – 3

Nay – 7

The motion to approve the minutes of the December 17th meeting as amended passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Dean's Report – Andy

The Dean announced that the Cathedral's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th.

There will be only one service that day – the 10:15 Service. The clerk of the meeting will be Jonathan Sternberg. Retiring Vestry members Terri Curran, Phyllis Biddle, and Candy McDowell were asked to serve as tellers.

The Dean reiterated thoughts expressed in his “Notes on 2020 Projected Budget” that he emailed to the members of the Vestry on January 15th (see Attachment 1). In brief, he suggests we operate through Easter Sunday according to the proposed Adjusted 2020 Annual Budget which projects a deficit of (\$25,304.62). In the meantime efforts will be made to eliminate the projected deficit through continued appeals to parishioners to make and/or increase their 2020 pledges. If the projected deficit has not been eliminated by the end of April, there is a plan to reduce expenses through some personnel changes.

3. Financial Report, Budget Recommendation – David Telep, Treasurer

David Telep announced that we closed the Fiscal Year 2019 with a balanced budget. Although we had significantly lower than budgeted pledges and plate, we also had lower than budgeted expenses.

David then reviewed the readjusted proposed Annual Budget for 2020 (Attachment 2) which, as the Dean pointed out earlier in the meeting, projects a deficit of (\$25,304.62). This budget is based on a number of assumptions concerning income and expenses which were discussed at the December Vestry meeting and are noted in the far right-hand column of the budget proposal. Little has changed from the budget which was proposed in December with the exception of the Crowell Trust which came in better than expected.

Discussion ensued including questions about the utilization of the \$301K+ Richards bequest, the status of the stewardship campaign and current plate giving, suggestions of ways to increase giving, concerns about allocation of resources and how to prioritize funding, and a concern that the funds we need to raise “aren’t out there.”

Kristen Ellis Johnson moved to approve the proposed 2020 Budget as presented.

Terri Curran seconded the motion.

The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Paula pointed out that we needed to record that the “Continuing Resolution to continue funding for the month of January 2020” which was circulated by email in late December passed by unanimous electronic vote before the end of 2019.

David articulated that the Finance Committee requests that the Vestry act on two matters which it has put before the Vestry.

First the following resolution:

Whereas Bank of America (formerly US Trust) was the Trustee for the David T Beals III Charitable Trust;

Whereas Bank of America contacted the Cathedral and encouraged it to submit a grant request with an artistic purpose to the David T Beals III Charitable Trust;

Whereas Bank of America as Trustee approved that grant request and provided funding of over \$660,000 for the restoration of the Cathedral's stained-glass windows, an amount sufficient to cover the cost of the restoration and provide a \$130,000 maintenance fund;

The Finance Committee respectfully requests that the Vestry develop an appropriate and significant expression of appreciation to Bank of America for its support of the stained glass window restoration.

It was the consensus of the Vestry that it should and will do something appropriate to recognize the initiative of Bank of America in the Stained-Glass Window project. There was a brief discussion of how this could be accomplished.

Finally, David alerted the Vestry about phishing issues that have been and continue to be of concern. BEWARE!

4. Stewardship – Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair

Much of the Stewardship report was part of the discussion of the budget. Steve reported that to date 130 pledges have been received totaling \$380,000 vs the budgeted amount of \$467,000. He feels that this might be a stretch for us this year, but that he feels the budgeted plate is “light.”

5. Jr. Warden Report – Terri Curran

Terri reviewed accomplishments of the Cathedral's Social Outreach program and announced upcoming outreach plans. Of particular note are the Happy Bottoms diaper collection going on during January and the Souper Bowl Sunday campaign. As Nominating Committee Chair, Terri announced that there are now 9 eligible candidates for the Vestry Class of 2023 who have submitted paperwork.

See Attachment 3 for the complete January 2020 Junior Warden Report.

6. Sr. Warden Report – Paula

Paula thanked the retiring Vestry members (Terri Curran, Phyllis Biddle, Donna Knoell, and Candy McDowell) for their service.

Paula also reminded the Vestry of another matter the Finance Committee wishes the Vestry to address. That is the proposed resolution codifying how unrestricted gifts and bequests are allocated. A short discussion ensued including comments about an alternative resolution which Candy McDowell proposed in November. Further discussion of this matter was tabled.

Paula reported for Dave Barker, Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee, that at this time we do not need to purchase a new chiller for Founders' Hall.

Paula and other members of the Vestry commented on the wonderful installation service and reception for Andy which was held on the previous Thursday evening. Paula and Andy thanked all those who were involved in the celebration.

7. Old and New Business

- There was discussion about the Vestry's role in the discernment process.
- Paula proposed that we have a neighborhood Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. There was an enthusiastic consensus to act on the proposal. Paula volunteered to organize the event.
- The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for February 27th, but that may change depending on the time and date of the Vestry Retreat.
- Jeff Johnson reminded the Vestry that questions about funding for the Bookstore were raised at the December meeting. This is a conversation that needs to be continued sometime in the future.
- Ron Michka presented a list of opportunities of interest to the Cathedral. Of special interest are issues having to do with the renovation of Barney Allis Plaza. These changes will impact the Cathedral in the short run and in the future. We need to be involved at this level as players.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35.