

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral
Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Thursday, December 13, 2018

Members Present: The Very Rev. Evelyn Hornaday, Interim Dean; Paula Connors, Senior Warden; Terri Curran, Junior Warden; Jonathan Sternberg, Clerk; Tara Bennett; Sharon Cheers; Donna Knoell; Candy McDowell; Ron Michka; Milt Tootle.

Absent: Phyllis Biddle; Jackye Finnie; Ryan Thomas.

Others Present: Chuck Ritter, Treasurer.

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. in the Common Room. Mother Evelyn opened in prayer.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Jonathan Sternberg presented the minutes from October 18, 2018. Milt Tootle moved to approve the minutes. Donna Knoell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by voice vote with one vote in opposition.

2. Treasurer's Report

Chuck Ritter gave an overview, noting that the report is informal so he would not be requesting formal approval of it. Due to the earlier than usual meeting date, the numbers don't include December. The numbers appear to be "horrible" in November compared to the previous year, but this is only because the Kroll trust bequest didn't come until technically December and the larger church contribution was larger than usual due to preexisting commitments.

Chuck agreed we should be concerned that pledge and plate aren't going to hit the budgeted number, though December usually is higher than normal. Still, he didn't expect to reach the original target. Also, we tend to get pledges in December that will contribute to YTD. "We're always behind because of these factors, but we're 'behinder' than last year." Chuck explained the difference between "gifts & bequests" and pledges, and explained that the usual behavior resulting in a \$30,000 budget for "gifts & bequests" wasn't present this year. But the overall numbers didn't make that an issue.

Mother Evelyn described the pledges she had received and had not received. She said that the changes in behavior she had observed were not uncommon during

a transition period. She said that people tend to keep giving, just often aren't willing to put it down on paper. She made clear that only she knows who is pledging and how much they're pledging.

Ron and Donna suggested that we make people aware that money can be given from an IRA. Jonathan suggested that we make people aware that money can be given from an S-corporation, too.

Chuck said that overall, he believed we'd be looking at a \$20,000 deficit for the year, just as he expected.

3. Dean's Report

Mother Evelyn explained that this has been a very busy time, especially because there have been a number of funerals. All the clergy have been extremely busy with this, including Marco.

Mother Evelyn announced that we have someone in place who is volunteering to be the Volunteer Coordinator, Brenda Richardson. Rather than taking it on as a global assignment, she's doing it project-by-project. She is doing well, and as we go into the new year we will be evaluating her position. Donna commented that she is delightful to work with.

Mother Evelyn said the Cathedral calendar is very busy in December and January. She distributed a calendar of all events. The annual meeting is Sunday, January 27. She will be leaving town within moments of finishing the Christmas Day service December 25 and will be on vacation until January 2. Christy then will go on vacation until January 19. There was discussion about why the parish meeting for the Cathedral Conversations report is on a Saturday rather than Sunday, but Mother Evelyn said it was because it is a working meeting.

4. Dean Search Committee update

Paula Henderson Connors reported the Search Committee has met twice, including with Canon Steve Roettgers, and described how the Search Committee is learning to use the National Church's "match" system.

Mother Evelyn reminded the Vestry that it's the Vestry's responsibility to create the position description, not the Search Committee. She said the Vestry would do that in January.

Mother Evelyn presented all the Cathedral Conversations and survey results. She told the Vestry that they needed to “read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest” them. The Search Committee will be using them to write the Parish Profile, which the Vestry will have to approve, and they also will be used in the Vestry creating the Dean’s position description.

5. Other business

Donna Knoell said that college packets all had been mailed and should have been received. Donna Knoell also reported that new people were signing up for hospitality.

Donna Knoell raised an issue about the Cathedral gates being closed too often. She said it made it seem not welcoming, and others had complained to her about this. She suggested that instead of closing the gates, we could ask Argus not to use this as a thoroughfare. Mother Evelyn said that not having the gates open during the day one day last week was a mistake.

Terri Curran would like the Vestry to vote on the two candidates for the Christmas offering this year. She suggested Episcopal Relief and Development for the national/international charity, which does disaster relief, and Whatsoever Community Center for the local charity, which helps disadvantaged youth in Northeast Kansas City with outside-of-school programs. She suggested the split would be 60/40 giving/keeping, and that the 60 would be 30/30 between these two charities. Mother Evelyn said this is how it always has been, and would be this year.

Donna Knoell moved to approve to approve Terri Curran’s proposal. Jonathan Sternberg seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mother Evelyn said that every year a certain amount of every clergy’s stipend has to be designated as housing allowance, which the clergy requests and the Vestry must approve.

- Marco Serrano requested \$17,000 of his be designated for housing
- Christy Dorn requested \$50,000
- Mother Evelyn requested \$20,000

Milt Tootle moved to approve all three requests. Donna Knoell seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Jonathan Sternberg, Clerk, then signed off on the requests.

Ron Michka reported that the Bishop has approved Cursillo to be here next year. He described what it was. The Vestry discussed what the Cathedral could do to facilitate this.

Ron Michka brought up the CEEP conference in Boston in February 2019, and mentioned that early bird pricing is due on December 31. If we are going to send a contingent, we need to decide that soon. Mother Evelyn said it was a wonderful conference and opportunity, but cautioned that it is not a broad conference and instead is very focused. She said we really need a permanent dean to be the leader who goes, if it's to have the impact it really should have. Paula Henderson Connors agreed with this.

The Vestry went into executive session at 6:45 p.m.

The Vestry returned to open session at 7:08 p.m.

Adjourned with closing prayer at 7:08 p.m. The next meeting of the Vestry will be Thursday, January 17, 2019.