

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral
Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Thursday, February 27, 2020

Members Present: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse, Dean; Paula Henderson Connors, Senior Warden; Jonathan Sternberg, Clerk; Sharon Cheers; Bill Colvin; Jeff Johnson; Kristen Ellis Johnson; Ron Michka; Nick Smith; Ken Stewart.

Absent: Richard Morse, Junior Warden; Amy; Ryan Thomas.

Others present: Steve Moore, Chancellor.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room by Dean Andy, who opened in prayer.

1. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Dean Andy presented the minutes from the previous Vestry meeting on January 16, 2020, which Candy Made. Kristen Ellis Johnson moved to approve; Jeff Johnson seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Dean's Report

Dean Andy welcomed the new Vestry members. He outlined the Lenten services and events, beginning with Ash Wednesday, which was well attended. Stations of the Cross are on Fridays. Holy Week will be slightly different than what we're used to because Dean Andy is adding some services, including an evening service each day and a third service on Good Friday. He also is bringing Communion back at the 5:00 p.m. service whenever we have Evensong.

Dean Andy, Julie Toma, and Paula Henderson Connors just returned from the CEEP conference. They concentrated on working on "what is our mission, who do we want to be." They made a lot of good connections.

We are supposed to confirm Diocesan Convention delegates by March 1. Last time, we had nine delegates and two alternates. We will put information out quickly to the parish about this for volunteers.

Vestry Retreat will be at HJ's at St. Andrews on March 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Regular Vestry meetings will continue to be the fourth Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

3. Financial Report

Dean Andy presented the financial report because David Telep, Treasurer, could not be at the meeting. Total revenues are \$13,000 down from budget. We weren't billed our diocesan assessment in January, which is why the larger church line item of expense is down. Other expenses are down significantly as well. This made for being right about on budget.

We don't yet know what we raised at the Pancake Supper, but if we made a profit it was minimal. We were able to recoup some of the costs from the "phishing" fraud, but lost \$1,400.

We've purchased a hot water heater for Haden, which only cost \$1,000. We've also decided to operate the malfunctioning chiller in Founder's Hall at lowest usage for now.

There are some mechanical issues with the main organ in the Nave. Paul Meier and Dave Barker are getting a certified organ repairer to do a full examination of the organ.

Sharon Cheers moved to approve the financial report. Jeff Johnson seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Dean Andy presented a resolution to approve the housing allowances for himself and Canon Dorn. This is their election, but the Canons of the Church state that it must be approved by the Vestry. Jonathan Sternberg moved to approve them, Kristen Ellis Johnson seconded. The resolutions were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Dean Andy also presented the Parochial Report, which was prepared by Julie Toma, David Telep, and others. Kristen Ellis Johnson moved to approve, Bill Colvin seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

4. Stewardship Report

Steve Moore, Chancellor, reported on ongoing stewardship. New pledges are up, but the problem is that average pledges are down. He is working to contact those 16 or 17 who have not renewed pledges – several of whom are even donating, just without having pledged. There has been a huge outpouring of support, but Steve thinks this amounts to an attendance issue more than anything.

5. Junior Warden's Report

Richard Morse, Junior Warden, delivered his report in writing. He reported on Bishop's Day, which was last Saturday, February 22. He also is going to be the Vestry's liaison to the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

6. Senior Warden's Report

Paula Henderson Connors, Senior Warden, reported on some of the things she took away from CEEP, and promised a full report on it at the Vestry retreat.

Paula said Brenda Richardson has prepared an outline for an agenda for the Committee on Social Justice for the year. This included events for Black History Month, Women's History Month, and Pride Month, as well as programming about gun violence, a voter registration drive, and poll transportation.

Paula reported on the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, where there were some 70 people there and we served over 130 meals. Everyone there said it was a great time.

Paula reported that she met with the Diocese and ask for relief from our extra assessment in the past for having to hire Mother Evelyn when Dean DeVeau had his stroke. The Diocesan Finance Committee will consider it, but requested a letter from the Vestry actually requesting that meeting. Paula drafted and sent a letter to the Vestry, but it needs to be a resolution. Jonathan Sternberg, Clerk, proposed that it be substantially in this form:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Vestry of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral, in accordance with Canon XXI of the Diocese of West Missouri, that the Vestry of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral hereby acknowledges the 2020 diocesan assessment of \$255,943, as calculated by the Diocesan Treasurer, and requests to meet with the Assessment Review Committee to discuss a reduction of \$8000.

Paula moved to approve such a resolution, to be drafted by Paula and Jonathan Sternberg, Clerk, and Kristen Ellis Johnson seconded. The motion to make the resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.

7. Old Business

Jonathan Sternberg, Clerk, for David Telep who is absent, re-presented the Finance Committee's proposed resolution for unrestricted bequest distributions from the November 2019 Vestry meeting. The resolution proposed that for unrestricted bequests, they be distributed as follows: UMB Trust 2: 40%; the William T. Kemper Cathedral Memorial Fund Trust: 40%; the Vestry Discretionary MMK Holding: 20%. David gave reasons for this proposal, noting it always had been the unwritten policy and this was just memorializing it. But he acknowledged that it hadn't been done for everything.

A discussion ensued. Jonathan Sternberg moved to approve, Ken Stewart seconded. The resolution was approved by unanimous voice vote.

8. New Business

Dean Andy said that 2020 is the 150th anniversary of the founding of Grace Church, which ultimately became Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral. The Vestry discussed ideas for how to celebrate this, including a celebration, tours, etc.

Ken Stewart raised the issue of minutes online to make sure they are final ones and not drafts, and to clarify how executive sessions are or are not on the record.

Dean Andy notified the Vestry of an incident at yesterday's mid-day Ash Wednesday service, where a person came in off the street, tried to steal an attendee's purse, and was apprehended by police.

Jeff Johnson proposed doing some First Friday event on May 1. A discussion ensued about ideas for that.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be Thursday, March 26, 2020.