

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral
Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Thursday, March 26, 2020

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

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

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Dean Andy, who opened in prayer.

1. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Jonathan Sternberg presented the minutes from the previous Vestry meeting on February 27, 2020. Ken Stewart pointed out that a mention of his raising of the issue of what surface the playground should have, followed by a discussion of that, was missing, and requested the minutes be amended to include that. Paula Henderson Connors moved to approve with that amendment; Jeff Johnson seconded. Approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Dean's Report

Dean Andy discussed moving to online services due to the pandemic, mentioning that there had been some glitches that needed to be worked out, though this seemed to be getting better as Youtube was streaming now. He said he would be prerecording Wednesday prayers at noon on Sundays, too. He also discussed setting up a virtual coffee hour Zoom session. Several Vestry members suggested adding prayers on Facebook Live. He mentioned that this Sunday, there would be a litany written for the pandemic.

Dean Andy discussed the Holy Week schedule. He said it was possible for there to be no Easter Vigil, but the Bishop had requested it. The Bishop would be presiding on Easter. For Palm Sunday, palms would be prepared for delivery to those who wanted it, as would bread and wine for Easter itself. He suggested the Vestry call the congregation to let them know about this. A discussion ensued about this, and the Vestry agreed to. Several members raised concerns about making the Eucharist consumable via recording, making sure any deliveries do not spread infection, and making sure the directory was updated for calling.

Dean Andy discussed revenue shortfalls during this time of isolation. Amounts received from the plate will be down, and changes will have to be made. We are looking to add more online giving. Several Vestry members suggested a donation button on Facebook. Dean Andy suggested forming a committee on in-house ways to save money.

3. Financial Report

David Telep presented the financial report. The Shrove Tuesday dinner brought in \$436. Paul is getting quotes for mechanical work to the main organ in the Nave, which will cost \$2,000-4,000 to inspect alone and more to fix it. A new credit card had been provided to Alexandra Connors with a limit of \$5,000. We are awaiting the receipt of TIF money we are owed of around \$75,000.

David said that we have a safety deposit box at Commerce Bank that had not been opened in some time, and he was going to go there and catalogue items in it.

The pandemic is affecting our finances. We had received \$400,000 in pledges, versus the \$467,000 budgeted. Having the Cathedral closed will result in some utility savings. The deficit started out at \$25,000, fundraising started well, but missing Easter will hurt us to the tune of \$8,000 to \$10,000 or so. Also, because the market is way down, this will be reflected in our endowment distributions in 2021.

Because of the pandemic, we're looking at switching to single-party signing on checks. Dean Andy and Jonathan Sternberg said that was not necessary, because both of them remain available to sign checks and this had not been an issue.

4. Stewardship Report

Steve Moore, Chancellor, reported on ongoing stewardship. He said we need to be transparent about the impact the pandemic is having on our needs. Any way to make it easier to give is good. Vestry members floated ideas such as using QR codes, reminding people electronically that we're here, reaching out to parishioners one by one, and putting up signage.

5. Junior Warden's Report

Richard Morse presented his report. He discussed transitioning to ally-year stewardship, a discussion on which ensued. The Buildings and Grounds committee had discussed recommendations for redoing the floors in the Nave, what it costs, and decided it should wait for now.

6. Senior Warden's Report

Paula Henderson Connors, Senior Warden, reported that she had sent our resolution for relief on the diocesan assessment to the Diocese. She said that the chances of relief are slim, but they will evaluate it.

Paula mentioned that we do not have a continuity of business plan. She had enlisted M. Thomas to head that up, and he agreed. Paula discussed other resources for distance worship and study, which she will share with the whole Vestry.

7. Old and New Business

Dean Andy suggested we plan a social event when the shutdown is over. A potential May 1 date was discussed, as was Trinity Sunday. Jeff Johnson and Kristen Ellis Johnson volunteered to plan this.

A discussion ensued about convention delegates and alternates ensued. There was a question of how many to have, of which six ultimately was suggested. Jonathan Sternberg moved to have six, Sharon Cheers seconded, and it was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Dean Andy will set a time for mission statement and strategic plan committee discussions.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be Thursday, April 23, 2020.