

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral
Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Thursday, May 28, 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; Amy Cornwell; Jeff Jonson Kristen Ellis Johnson; Ron Michka; Ken Stewart; Ryan Thomas.

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

Not present: Bill Colvin; Nick Smith.

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Dean Andy in prayer.

1. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Jonathan Sternberg presented the minutes from the previous Vestry meeting on April 23, 2020. Paula Henderson Connors offered a correction to a typo. Sharon Cheers corrected her having been counted twice in the list of who was present. Jonathan moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Ryan Thomas seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Dean's Report

Dean Andy discussed how the livestream was going for services. We have a 120-foot ethernet cable that we're using for the livestream, so we now aren't relying on wi-fi and the picture has been stable with no issues. We've also added a link for the coffee hour that goes out with the livestream.

With regard to the tower bells, Paul Meier spoke with the manufacturer, who thinks he knows what is wrong, but due to the pandemic isn't sending people out to repair. Instead, Paul has sent the unit to them, and they're working on it and will send it back. Hopefully, it will work at that point.

Our services for the next few weeks, including the feasts of Pentecost and Trinity, will include a eucharist, but then will go back to morning prayer until we can gather together again in person. Once we do get to that point, we'll go back one week without eucharist so Andy can explain how it will work, and then the following week will resume the eucharist.

Dean Andy sent around a document outlining our plan for reopening, which will be updated as needed. There were new guidelines from the City running through July 5 now allowing us to be at 50% capacity, rather than 10%, which would alleviate our need to add extra services or require reservations. That would mean 350 people would be allowed in for services, which is more than our average Sunday attendance. Regardless, the diocesan requirement of 14 days of declining cases trumps all of this, and we remain stuck until that occurs, and it hasn't yet occurred. But once it does, we still would have to decide whether we want people to sign a registry sheet so there's a record of who is there.

Dean Andy finished the Revelation Class last night, which was well attended and went well. Next, he will begin "Episcopal 101" class for inquirers, including those who do want to be confirmed, though confirmation not required

Looking ahead to 2021, Dean Andy has created a Budget Contingency Committee consisting of himself, Paula Henderson Connors, Richard Morse, Jeff Johnson, and David Telep, and have brainstormed for several weeks on what to do financially for the next year. Other Vestry members will be called upon to join in smaller groups, research the ideas, and come up with recommendations.

3. Financial Report

David Telep, Treasurer, presented the financial report.

Month-to-date in April, we saw a decline in plate offerings to \$5,500, which was expected not being in the church. We did get a check for \$10,000, though, which we placed in the operating fund's "gift" category, which moves us toward the \$50,000 goal. This was discussed last month but was part of the April numbers. Parking donations were past what we expected for budget, because Richard Wolf rolled up some pre-COVID numbers into it, though we expect those numbers to decline dramatically over the next few months. Month-to-date expenses are below budget for clergy and salary by \$13,000 due to Christy Dorn's retirement, property expenses are down because the buildings aren't being used, and parish life (\$6,000 for the month) because of the shutdown. So, overall we were down on expenses \$36,000.

Year-to-date overall for revenue, we're short about \$44,000 to budget, but we're \$58,000 below expectations on expenses (notably utilities, education, parish life, clergy and salary).

We took out a Paycheck Protection Program loan for about \$166,000, and Richard Wolf was able to project that we should see forgiveness for about \$131,000

of this. He is keeping good track of what the money was used for. That will go a long way to cover the gap we had projected for 2020. The reason we can't have the full amount forgiven is that we couldn't allocate 75% of the expenditures to payment costs. We won't wind up with debt, because we'll just pay any unforgiven amount back to the bank.

Pledges are up to \$417,000 for the year. Our goal remains \$467,000, so we're \$50,000 off, but we were stagnant and it has now gone up.

We had a chiller go down, but that has been a problem for a while. The property committee has gotten quotes for \$70,000 for a new unit plus \$7,000 in installation fees. But we've also received \$70,000 in TIF money that hasn't been used, which will pay for this. If need be, the extra \$7,000 will come out of the Grace and Trinity trust funds. Sharon Cheers asked for documentation of this to be provided to the Vestry.

David agreed with the need for the Budget Contingency process, and stressed its importance and how it would work.

4. Stewardship Report

Steve Moore, Chancellor, reported on ongoing stewardship. The updated pledge report shows that the total are up to 149, which exceeds both 2018 (135) and 2019 (139). We're up to \$417,000, which is up \$18,000 from the previous Vestry meeting. The average pledge is down, and the average new pledge is down. To him, that suggests new pledges are coming from younger people, which shows some good news because it means attracting new pledgers.

As for plans for 2021, Steve will be setting up a meeting with those who have volunteered to help, and is making a schedule for the stewardship campaign. He wants to stick with the traditional stewardship campaign, but he wants ideas to freshen it up, noting that what seems true now may not be a few months from now.

Paula Henderson Connors provided information about a CEEP program about "Stewardship in the age of COVID-19" that she thought would be beneficial.

5. Junior Warden's Report

Richard Morse, Junior Warden, presented his report. He looked into how the last round of calls to parishioners went, and Julie Tomas reported 140 responses and an updating of contact information. But no one reported being "in need." Richard said this was hard to believe, and instead anecdotally thought some people

just don't want to admit their needs. He encouraged still connecting with any parishioners in need.

6. Senior Warden's Report

Paula Henderson Connors, Senior Warden, presented her report. She also reported on the calls to parishioners, and asked the Vestry whether they received calls. Some said they did, and some did not. But her own calls with parishioners showed that people were anxious to get back to the Cathedral, but understood that the precautions were for safety.

Paula also called to attention that Bishop Curry has called for this Sunday to be a national day of mourning for all those who have been affected by the pandemic, including a national collaborative prayer as part of Pentecost. She said we were doing this in collaboration with Jewish and Muslim people. Dean Andy clarified how this would work.

Paula also discussed the possibility of doing a food drive, perhaps for St. Mary's Pantry or Nourish KC, and do a "drive through" drop-off. Vestry members spoke favorably of the idea. Paula would reach out to Terri Curran and see if we can't put something together about this. Kristen Ellis Johnson mentioned some other drives going on around the same time, and suggested this could fit in with those.

7. Old and New Business

Kristen Ellis Johnson updated the Vestry on Outreach, including successful Back-Snack, providing baskets for Mother's Day and to others in need, and lunches to St. Luke's Hospital.

Ken Stewart updated the Vestry on Communications. The committee will meet and discuss how we want communications to be different going forward, and he expects something going fairly soon. Ron Michka updated on Tuesday coffees, which have been going well. He also updated on Downtown Council meetings, which he has been attending.

Ryan Thomas updated the Vestry on the Social Justice Committee. This, too, is just beginning. They've been discussing human trafficking, immigration, and systemic racism.

Sharon Cheers updated the Vestry on Safety and Security. She spoke with Angie to get updates on what they're dealing with to keep the property up and safe.

The Downtown Security Council, which is the group that patrols the businesses downtown including us, contacted Sharon and said they were glad to see everything going so well at the Cathedral. But they have seen a few things, including people trying to camp there, though it doesn't become a problem because the property staff is staying on top of it.

Ken Stewart updated the Vestry on the cremains that had been found in the vault space below the Nave, which now have been placed in a new shelving and drawer in the reredos on the altar, which Bud McDowell constructed. He shared a photograph of that with the Vestry.

Dean Andy said we need to continue updating the Mission Statement and Strategic Plan, and discussed picking that back up with the Vestry. A discussion ensued about the schedule for doing so.

Dean Andy brought up the possibility of skipping a month for Vestry meetings, and the Vestry said that had been done before. But the group consensus was to keep all the meetings, given the circumstances, and not skip one this year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be Thursday, June 25, 2020.