

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral
Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Thursday, September 24, 2020

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

Others present: Steve Moore, Chancellor

Not present: Richard Morse, Junior Warden; Bill Colvin; Ryan Thomas

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Dean Andy in prayer.

1. Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Dean Andy presented the minutes from the previous Vestry meeting on August 27, 2020, though he offered two amendments. Ron Michka moved to accept the minutes as amended, Jeff Johnson seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Dean's Report

Dean Andy presented his report.

Sunday services outdoors have been going well for the past two weeks. He has enjoyed it, and those who have come have reported they liked it. The second week, he reoriented the direction faced so the sun wasn't in anyone's eyes, and that worked well.

We will continue the outdoor 5:00 p.m. services into October for as long as we can weather-wise. Dean Andy had hoped to begin indoor services at the beginning of October, that no longer will happen after he checked COVID numbers with the Health Department. When we do, however, we'll do the 10:15 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. services, both by signing up to attend, but not the 8:00 a.m. due to air quality issues.

Dean Andy thanked everyone for getting their Budget Contingency group reports in. He and the Executive Committee wants all the groups to attend a meeting to present the reports to the entire Vestry, with each group having 15

minutes. The Vestry discussed this and agreed that this would happen on Monday, September 28 at 5:30 p.m.

Vestry members set to roll off in January have received e-mails from Paula Henderson Connors asking whether they intend to run again, though all are eligible to. Our bylaws allow people to serve two consecutive three-year terms. Regardless of whether members are part of that group, Dean Andy would like all Vestry members to solicit people who might want to run. The Cathedral will put out announcements about this, too, with the goal being to put together a list of people who will run. We will be taking names until the end of November.

3. Stewardship Report

Steve Moore, Chancellor, reported on ongoing stewardship.

We got out our first mailing of pledges. Steve was pleased with the content. We've already received six pledges totaling \$25,000, which is a great start – the best Steve had seen since he had been doing this. The next mailing will be in another three weeks or so. We intend to incorporate personal testimonies into the mailings, and also explain that if everyone makes a 10% increase in their pledge, we'd make our goals easily. We've had an average pledge of \$3,000 for a long time, and if we can change that it would be great. In our next mailing, Steve would like to report that all the Vestry have gotten their pledges, in to show an example.

Dean Andy noted that a parishioner had spoken to him about making a legacy gift and had already increased his pledge, and if everyone can do that it will be a good year.

Ken Stewart noted an issue where he had an automatic deduction for his pledge, but it wasn't showing up under "pledges." There was discussion of this, and Dean Andy said he would look into that and make sure person by person that this was dealt with.

Dean Andy said that the Blessing of the Pledges would be November 15 at both services.

4. Senior Warden's Report

Paula Henderson Connors, Senior Warden, presented her report.

Paula reached out to the Vestry Class of 2021 and asked them to prayerfully consider their candidacy at the Annual Meeting in January.

Paula asked the Vestry about feedback received from parishioners they've reached out to or calls they've made, especially in terms of how they've been able to join online. Several Vestry members discussed feedback they had received. Concerns received included being able to resume a routine when the time came, and struggles to adopt new technology necessary to cope with the circumstances, and the Vestry members discussed ideas about what to do about this.

Paula also asked the Vestry to reach out to the 10-12 people who sit around their parts of the Nave – their “pew-mates” and just check on them.

5. Vestry Liaison Reports

Sharon Cheers e-mailed her report from the Safety Committee to the Vestry earlier. Dean Andy recounted someone who got into the Cathedral and was wandering around on Sunday looking for handouts, which isn't the first time this had occurred, but since there is more activity Downtown we have seen more people around the Cathedral on Sunday mornings. This wasn't a hostile situation, but we didn't know how he got into the Cathedral. He said we had talked about bringing back a security person on Sunday mornings, but that's a minimum \$250 charge each, and we'll do that if we need to, but the need isn't seen just yet.

Ron Michka discussed the Tuesday Conversations had continued to have. He thanked us for having posted up-to-date minutes and inviting parishioners to the Vestry meetings. He also discussed the Barney Allis Plaza development, which got funding, and he thought it would be good for the Cathedral to be represented there as a stakeholder by someone who knows real estate, property, or can help influence development. The funding was not only for there, but also the parking lot between the Cathedral and Immaculate Conception. Demolition will begin this fall. Ron also discussed the expansion of the Streetcar to UMKC and the Riverfront, which could impact our events and transportation for people to come to the Cathedral.

Ken Stewart discussed Communications. We have energetic people to be on the committee, but we have to figure out exactly what it is, what we can do, and how we can do it. He sent around a 14-page compilation of all the conversations had had with people about this.

Amy Cornwell discussed Education. But there was little update for Children's Formation. Linda and Alexandra had begun with the children/youth on Sunday mornings.

Nick Smith discussed Young Adults. There was a recent Third Thursday event, which some people attended. Nick has stepped back on the e-mail reminders,

and hopefully the Newsletter is enough to keep people coming. Discussion ensued on how to keep people coming to groups like that.

6. Old and new business

Dean Andy reminded everyone about the Blessing of the Animals on Saturday, October 3, at 1:00 p.m. There is a sign out on Broadway advertising this, and there will be an additional one on 13th Street.

7. Financial Report

David Telep, Treasurer, was unavailable, but Dean Andy said David had been pleased that pledges and plate giving had stayed consistent during this time. People have been good about getting online and making pledge payments and mailing pledges in. Thanks to the PPP Loan, we'll finish 2020 just fine, but we can't rely on that in 2021, so we need everyone to step up where they can.

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be Thursday, October 22, 2020.