

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral
Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry
Thursday, November 19, 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; Phaedra Fahnstock; Jeff Johnson; Ron Michka; Nick Smith; Ken Stewart; Ryan Thomas

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

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

Jonathan Sternberg, Clerk, presented the minutes from the previous Vestry meeting on October 22, 2020. Dean Andy offered one amendment to correct a typographical error. Paula Henderson Connors 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.

Dean Andy talked with the Bishop, who then had a meeting with all of the clergy in the Diocese. There was to be an area confirmation earlier in the year, which was postponed until November, and then it was decided to move it until spring 2021, after Easter. Some parishes will hold confirmation services anyway because of pastoral necessities. There will be a meeting with the Bishop and all clergy this coming week, where Dean Andy suspects he will suspend all in-person services Diocese-wide for the time being.

Vestry members who are part of the Budget Contingency vetting process have had one meeting so far. Any other members who want to be a part are welcome to join. One idea that really came into focus is how best to use the kitchen in Founders, though we need an understanding of what has to be done there in order to really get answers. We're looking into a facilities assessment on Founders and its kitchen, and Andy is meeting with some people who had been suggested about that this coming week. We'll need to do the same thing for Haden Hall about how that

can be used, and that way this can move forward. Dean Andy is hoping to be able to announce some of these initiatives to the congregation soon.

Dean Andy asked about Vestry nominations. A mailing will go out about this shortly.

The Annual Meeting will have to be held remotely. The Vestry members discussed potentials for how that could be done, including whether the Bylaws needed to be amended and how voting could be done anonymously via Zoom, WebEx, Microsoft Teams, or mailing. Steve Moore, Chancellor, said that he believed the existing Bylaws allowed for a remote meeting. The Vestry agreed that the Annual Meeting had to be done remotely.

Dean Andy will be doing “meditations” on readings during Advent starting December 2. It will be a more contemporary format class.

3. Financial report

David Telep, Treasurer, presented the financial report.

The Vestry will have some critical choices to make regarding the budget and other items, and David said he will be asking for Vestry input over the next few days.

Taking a cursory glance year-to-date, this has been a continuation of what it's been for months. We're \$71,000 over budget for revenue, though again remembering that some of that is \$166,000 of PPP money from the Government, and expense-wise we're \$250,000 under budget for expense. The PPP money went on the “users fees” line in the budget because we're not making any money on that line. Big savings come from Canon Dorn leaving us in March and not being succeeded, not using the facility.

Because of the PPP money and the fewer expenses, we're ending the year with a cash-on-hand surplus of more than \$400,000, compared to our usual \$140,000 or so. The question is what to do with that. The Finance Committee discussed and voted on this, and their recommendation was to use the surplus funds to pay for the chiller at \$70,000, pay leftover bill from the Dean Search of about \$40,000, taking \$20,000 as seed money for some of the Budget Contingency programs, and not to take the \$55,400 draw from the Endowment for December.

A discussion ensued among the Vestry on whether to do these or which to do. David mentioned that another piece of the financial puzzle is the 2019 bequest from

Lola Fay Richards of around \$300,000, which was distributed 40-40-20 to Trinity Fund for Ministry, Grace Fund for Property, and Vestry Money Market Fund. Around this time, Vestry decided to install LED lighting, which would cost \$140,000, and the Vestry used the Lola Fay Richards money to pay for that, after which we petitioned the City for TIF money of 50%, which we've received. The "Delta" of those two is that in the end, \$70,000 was spent on the lighting, so we should see larger numbers in the long and short-term trust funds from the Lola Fay Richards money, and from the Vestry discretionary fund, we'll see \$58,000 more. In the Trinity Fund, we'll see \$117,900 more, and remaining in the Grace Fund, which had taken the hit for the LED lighting, there's \$49,000 extra left. Dean Andy mentioned that we were going to use the TIF money for the chiller, but due to the cash surplus we don't have to, and we can pay for the chiller out of the surplus.

For the 2021 Budget, we're trying to aim as close as we can to a balanced budget, but we're still now projecting a \$124,000 deficit. The Budget Committee needs to know where the Vestry thinks we can cut something, and is looking for feedback. Dean Andy said that one was taking a position from full-time to part-time, which he was pretty confident would occur, and would take the deficit down to \$78,000.

The PPP loan looks in very good shape to be forgiven, and Richard Wolf is in the midst of securing that. David said that we're as confident as confident can be that this will happen.

The Vestry continued its discussion of what to do with the surplus and whether to take the December Endowment draw.

After discussion, Jonathan Sternberg moved that the Cathedral should take the December draw. Ryan Thomas seconded the motion. The motion's vote was 6-6. Paula Henderson Connors asked to amend the motion, so Dean Andy broke the tie to vote against it, making the motion fail. Paula Henderson Connors then moved that the Cathedral should take the December draw, with an understanding that the Vestry will vote by February 2021 whether to pay it back into the Endowment. Ken Stewart seconded the motion. A discussion ensued. Paula Henderson Connors withdrew the motion. Jonathan Sternberg then moved again that the Cathedral should take the December draw. Bill Colvin seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 7-5.

Richard Morse moved that we pay the chiller bill and the Dean Search bill out of the cash surplus. Ron Michka seconded the motion. The motion passed by acclamation.

4. Stewardship report

Steve Moore, Chancellor, reported on ongoing stewardship.

The rate of increase in pledging is better than in years past, and the average pledge is \$3,200, which is toward the high end of the past seven years. At present, 62 pledges haven't been renewed, and assuming most of them are, we should be around \$420,000 for 2021, meeting our goal. People have been extraordinarily generous this year. We're going to have the blessing of the pledges on November 29. We're definitely on track to meet our goals.

5. Junior Warden's Report

Richard Morse, Junior Warden, presented his report. Everything he was going to report on already had been discussed.

6. Senior Warden's Report

Paula Henderson Connors, Senior Warden, presented her report.

Paula discussed the Facilities Assessment, mentioning that we were discussing this with two different firms, so we'll have comparisons. She also mentioned that the Advent Ride-Through is this coming Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and what that entailed. She encouraged the Vestry to make calls over Thanksgiving and Christmas because people won't be with their families or at church.

7. Vestry Liaison Reports

Sharon Cheers, Safety, wanted to thank the Cathedral for being a polling place on November 3, which she said went well and there were lots of people there.

Ron Michka reported on community engagement, mentioning a way to find out who is moving into the area and how we can take advantage of that. Over Thanksgiving and Christmas, this is the time to reach out to those folks. He also updated from the Downtown Council that the building housing Nourish KC was needing some updates, so they were looking to raise money for that. As well, Kansas City is looking at funding a homeless "camp" or "tent camp" with electricity, showers, toilets, lockboxes, etc., and this might be a good cause for us to help fund. Ken Stewart mentioned that we're now members of the LGBTQIA+ Chamber of Commerce in Kansas City, and we're placing an ad in their directory, which he showed the Vestry.

Ryan Thomas gave an update on Social Action, where Carrie O'Rourke was having health issues, but she's working on a three-part series on diversity and inclusion, also with a collective response to the Black Lives Matter issues. Ryan will have more information to share in the next week.

Phaedra Fahnestock reported on Outreach. The Fall Festival in October collected 1900 pounds of food, delivered to St. Mary's Pantry. We purchased 100 pairs of winter boots to be handed out at St. Andrew's on December 19. For backsnacks, we're only servicing 70 students because of remote schooling. But if they're still in session, we'll deliver them packages before Christmas. Over the next two months, we'll keep collecting food for St. Mary's Pantry, and we'll collect gift bags for the kids at Crittenden rather than having a party. We're also making notes of inspiration to give to healthcare workers, as well as lunches to give them.

Amy Cornwell reported on Children's Formation. Linda is continuing to do Zoom children's formation for grades 3-5. She's also putting together a virtual Christmas pageant.

8. Old and new business

The Vestry entered closed session at 7:31 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be Thursday, December 17, 2020.