

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry

Thursday, February 25, 2021

Members Present: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse, *Dean*; Paula Henderson Connors, *Senior Warden*; Richard Morse, *Junior Warden*; Phaedra Fahnestock, *Clerk*; Sharon Cheers, Jeff Johnson, Bill Colvin, Amy Cornwell, Ken Stewart, Ron Michka, Robin Rusconi, Nick Smith

Members Absent: Pat Decker

Others Present: David Barker, *Treasurer*; Steve Moore, *Chancellor*

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

Phaedra Fahnestock presented the minutes from the previous Vestry meeting on January 28, 2021. Jeff Johnson moved that the minutes be accepted, Sharon Cheers seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2. Dean's Report

Eleanor Wolfe, Richard Wolfe's mother, passed away this week. Dean Andy requested that the Vestry keep Richard and his family in their prayers. The Vestry and Cathedral staff will be extending a gift to the charity of the family's choice. Richard will let us know which charity he has chosen.

Our Vestry Retreat is this Saturday from 9am to 2pm. The zoom link has been sent out. We will jump right in with morning prayer and go from there, breaking from 12-12:30 for lunch.

Last year a reopening plan was created. Dean Andy and staff will be pulling that plan out and reviewing it. He is anticipating that we may be able to be in-person this summer once vaccines have been amply distributed. Once weather permits, we will resume outdoor services. There could be a surge coming up as a result of relaxed restrictions so we will keep an eye on that.

An outdoor Easter service is being considered. If we see far enough in advance that the weather will be nice, we will certainly have an outdoor service. We just have to see how it goes. We will have to do it by reservation and maybe have more than one service.

Ron suggested that so long as we reopen using CDC guidelines, such as masks and social distancing, that we could safely return even before vaccines are fully distributed. Some of our members are attending other churches that are having in-person services. Dean Andy is hearing that vaccines should be widely administered by mid-July. Right now we have about fifteen people in attendance when recording the online services. Perhaps we could consider allowing that many come inside for service? Nick asked if we could offer just the 8am service since it's a smaller bunch anyway. Dean Andy suggested that people that would normally come to other service times would likely want to come to the 8am as well if that's what time we offer. We're not inclined to make changes to the 10:15am service since we have such a following. If we move that service to in-person, we lose the choir/music.

Staff Openings: All three positions, Associate Priest, Children's Ministry Coordinator, and Youth Director, have been posted. The Youth Director position is not yet posted on Forma although Andy does have a note out to someone that's going to help with that. He had three people put their names in for Associate Priest. Monday and Tuesday Dean Andy will be having second conversations with two candidates for the Children's Ministry Coordinator. Paula feels that the postings on ENS are very brief. Can we get a fuller description posted? Right now it looks like we didn't complete the form. Dean Andy will speak to Matt to find out about having that updated.

Holy Week and Easter at GHTC (all live-streamed)

Monday, March 29:	7 pm - Evening Prayer (Dean Andy)
Tuesday, March 30:	10 am - Joint liturgy with bishops from the Dioceses of Missouri, West Missouri, Kansas, Western Kansas, and Central States Synod (Bishops, Dean Andy)
	7 pm - Evening Prayer (Dean Andy)
Wednesday, March 31:	7 pm - Evening Prayer (Dean Andy)
Maundy Thursday, April 1:	7 pm - Holy Eucharist with stripping of the Altar (Bishop Marty assist, Dean Andy preside/preach)
Good Friday, April 2:	12 n - Good Friday Liturgy (Bishop Marty assist, Dean Andy preach)
Holy Saturday, April 3:	9 am - Holy Saturday Liturgy (Dean Andy)
Easter Vigil, April 3:	7 pm - Diocesan Vigil with HE from Cathedral. Diocese will help stream in others from around the diocese to do readings, psalms, etc. (Dean Andy assist, Bishop Marty preside/preach)
Easter Day, April 4:	10:15 am - Holy Eucharist (Dean Andy assist, Bishop Marty preside/preach)

We will host a drive-through pickup the Saturday before Palm Sunday to collect resources, palms and communion, for Palm Sunday. We will live stream 9am Holy Saturday service.

Vestry members are required to participate in Diocesan Diversity Training. That training will be offered via Zoom every Saturday between April 17th to May 22nd from 10am to noon. Dean Andy will send out that link. Julie will send out the information regarding the six-module training for Safeguarding God's People. Please let Dean Andy know if you've already done either of those trainings. Paula completed her diversity/anti-racism training.

3. Financial Report

Income: We had an odd January. The pledge income for January was \$70,000. If we can encourage pledges to continue in this trend, we would hit \$800,000 in pledge income in 2021, which seems unlikely. If we extrapolated these numbers, we would run a deficit in March or April, at which point the endowment would kick in. Gifts and bequests were zero. The numbers assume that we will have expenses that we will not likely have within the next three months. By the end of 2021 we should probably be pretty close to budget.

Expenses: Since the Cathedral is closed, expenses are down. What used to be titled "Property" is now dubbed, "Facility".

Balance Sheet: It's unlikely that Fixed Assets will change by much, aside from depreciation even though we're not paying any taxes. Things that will change are fund values and the endowment, which are subject to the securities market.

Liabilities and Restricted Funds are things that won't vary much.

Paula pointed out the January Music Fundraising 2021 Actual shows as \$4,500. Dave will double check and get back to us because we don't think there was actually any fundraising activity in January.

Jeff Johnson moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted, Richard Morse seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

4. Stewardship Report

Steve Moore was pleased to announce that current pledges equate to \$429,000, which is almost \$20,000 over budget. Will still have 24 pledges that haven't yet renewed, which would be another \$55,000. We have 12 new pledges this year, the average of which is \$3,100. It's incredible. Steve thanked everyone who participated in the efforts.

CEEP is next week. There's a fee for the conference but the ancillary webinars are free. Steve may sit in on the Stewardship portions.

5. Junior Warden's Report

Richard Morse has nothing substantive to report this month, just some miscellaneous buildings and grounds items. Fence repair, security bars repaired. Lawn and maintenance and snow removal expenses are coming up. Nothing major.

6. Senior Warden's Report

Back in November we had to decide whether to take the December endowment draw. After much deliberation and voting we did end up taking the December draw. At that time we agreed to revisit it in February about putting the money back in. Paula thinks we need to put it back. Finance Committee minutes state the amount was \$61,000 whereas the Vestry meeting minutes state \$55,000. Richard asked if anyone can remember the last time that money from the endowment wasn't distributed or reinvested. No one seems aware of any instance of this in the Cathedral's history. Jeff says we have always relied on the endowment in some way. Robin agrees that she has no recollection of ever not taking it. Steve and Sharon agree. Paula recommends that we reinvest the endowment draw. Richard described the uncertainty of our financial outlook at the time the decision to take the draw was made versus the visibility that we now have. At that time, it seemed a wise decision to have as much operating cash as possible. He is also in favor of reinvesting. David Barker has shared that if we ever need it after putting it back, that it's there. Steve suggests that maybe we reinvest the pledge money to the extent that it exceeds budget. Jeff reminded the Vestry of the \$166,000 PPP windfall. Robin asked what the value is of reinvesting it other than for symbolic purposes. She's in favor of Steve's suggesting rather than acting too fast. Ron likes the idea of tying it to something very specific. Last year's year end cash surplus led us to consider accepting some of David Telep's recommended changes. Normally we carryover \$125,000 or \$140,000 and we were well in excess of that in 2020. The endowment has grown significantly over the years. Dean Andy reiterated the circumstances under which we made the decision in December and feels that we're in a much better position now. March 5th is when the portal opens up to apply for PPP loan forgiveness. Dean Andy thinks it would be a great gesture to put the draw back. Ron asked if there were any big expenses coming up. Paula said that there could be based on the Budget Contingency Group's ideas and the assessment. Sharon agrees with putting it back, thanks largely to Steve and the Stewardship Committee's efforts. Bill Colvin also agrees to put it back since we're clearly ahead and we have access to it if we need it. Just because the numbers look good now, once we reopen things could change. We don't have a new source of revenue other than that pledges are up. Ron wants to ensure that the motion clearly communicate the purpose

of our actions in that we want to be good stewards of the endowment. Jeff suggests that we reference our founders, those responsible for us even having an endowment. We take this draw monthly.

Paula made the following motion: In recognition of the generosity of our Founders, in Thanksgiving for God's ever-loving kindness and the support of our members' pledges, I move we return the December 2020 distribution of \$61,000 to the endowment. Ron seconded. Jeff added that the actual amount of December's draw was \$58,605. Paula amended her motion to the amount of \$58,605 to the endowment. Ron seconded the amended motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Paula feels that it's worth reviewing discretionary fund procedures and processes when a request has been made. Dean Andy shared that there was an emergency need by a member of the Cathedral and the current procedures make it very difficult to take action with anonymity and in a timely manner. We will bring this back up in a near future Vestry meeting.

The recording was stopped to discuss personnel matters.

We receive a very generous bequest in 2019 of \$300,000 from Lola Faye Richards. We used part of it to install LED lights. Richard announced that he received a letter from Lola Faye's nephew. Paula shared the letter with the Vestry. It read, in part, that while the use of his aunt's gift is unrestricted, he strongly urges that at least a portion be used as scholarship of some type. Paula would like to form a committee to establish guidelines for a scholarship in her honor.

Robin questioned our responsibility to follow the nephew's directions, which were not a legally binding document. She also wondered how a scholarship contributes to the mission of the Cathedral. Based on articles in our bylaws, we have to be careful about the appropriateness of how we spend the funds. Paula asked if we can get the actual wording of the Will or bequest. We can't spend the money on something that has no liturgical ties. Steve offered that historically we have had a fund for seminary. Can the Diocesan Chancellor provide some insight? Steve will find out if churches are precluded from offering non-church related scholarships. Ron asked if we should name the lights after Lola Faye. It was acknowledged in the Annual Report that the lights were funded by the Lola Faye Richards endowment. Dean Andy will reach out to her nephew. Ron wondered, since Lola was a volunteer, can it go somehow toward volunteers? Or vestments?

7. Vestry Liaison Reports

Sharon, Cheers, *Safety*

Fencing has been repaired as well as the windows, which now have bars on them.

Ron Michka, *Community Engagement*

Nothing specific to add, just that we've had a couple new people join for Tuesday coffees. Sharon and Amy have joined the conversations, which has been great. This is a good way to stay connected and engaged. Paula has encouraged us to make calls and the email that was sent to someone who hadn't been participating lately turned out to be a powerful act.

Amy Cornwell, *Children's Formation*

Linda prepared 20+ Lenten resource bags that were handed out during the drive through. She meets via Zoom every Sunday at 9:15am. Asking the children about temptation was something that came up last week. The

children have been practicing and taking turns leading in The Lord's Prayer. Participation is relatively small, 4-8 families on any given Sunday. She's working with a psychologist to talk to parents about the psychological impact of Covid on children.

Phaedra Fahnestock, *Outreach*

533 lbs of food donated to Saint Paul's Pantry from the Saturday, Feb. 20th Drive through event. 205.4 lbs of food donated to the Bartle Hall Warming Place. (These numbers are estimates since the several food items were not sorted correctly between Saint Paul's and the Warming Place)

1881 Diapers were donated during the January/February Diaper Drive vs. 4037 diapers donated during the January Drive in 2020. Outreach will purchase additional diapers from the private donation made by Jack Whitacre to supplement these donations.

Outreach will again be making Easter Baskets this year for the Children at Kaw Valley and Crittenton's Children's Center as well as the children at Sheffield Place.

Outreach will be receiving an award for being a stellar business partner with the North Kansas City schools of Gashland and Clardy.

A special thanks to Ric Sweeting for helping Terri deliver the food to Saint Paul's Pantry and to Bartle Hall, as well as backsnack deliveries to schools in NKC

Ken Stewart, *Communications*

The first Zoom meeting had about 20 people. It's a diverse group. We went through the 14pages of Cathedral communications and divided it up into themes. We will look at goals, obstacles, and solutions for each of those themes. They wondered about charges to present to the Vestry for approval to ensure that the group is addressing the right topics. AV and streaming did come up. There was a lot of good input from this fun and knowledgeable committee.

Nick, *Young Adult*

Big interest in getting together in person safely. It was a small group but they're very eager to meet in person. Nick didn't offer his opinion on the matter but they may consider trying that maybe at a coffee shop outside with masks on. There are people that have joined the Young Adults group and made friends within the group even amongst a pandemic. Hopefully this theme will continue.

8. Old and New Business

Old Business

Ken commented about the money that Dave Barker mentioned earlier that was listed as children's fundraising. Ken says that this was money that Linda Martin and volunteers raised from parking for musical instruments for the children. They were ordered, they came in, and they were not paid for. Jim and Linda Martin paid for them personally.

Last month we talked about Chris joining our meetings to talk about the livestreaming equipment. He will join us during this Saturday's retreat.

New Business

Ken asked if the Vestry could be added back to the bulletin and Vestry Liaison positions. Dean Andy said they should be printed in future bulletins and that liaison reappointments will be discussed at the retreat this weekend.

Lenten services have been going really well.

Regarding our Deaconate candidate, Ron wondered if we completed everything necessary. Dean Andy and Robin confirmed that we did. Ron mentioned that he would love to promote to our congregation that we have a candidate in order to encourage others. The document we signed pledged our support. What can we do to support? Robin says prayers for encouragement are the primary things that come to mind. She prefers that we wait until it's confirmed before promoting it publicly. Ron suggested that prayers even before it's confirmed could serve to strengthen the process. Ken thought maybe it would be a good article for the Angelus, to go through the program and the process.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be Thursday, March 25, 2021.