

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Special Meeting of the Vestry

Thursday, March 11, 2021

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

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Dean Andy in prayer once enough members were present to constitute a quorum.

Special Session

The main purpose of the special session is to fill the vacancy left by Paula Connors' resignation of her term, scheduled to run through January 2024, and her position of Senior Warden. Also, once Robin Rusconi attains Postulancy, which is anticipated to happen as soon as June, she will have to step down from the Vestry.

Prior to the Zoom call, Jeff Johnson had sent out an email to the Vestry regarding the order of events that should take place in a situation such as this. The Dean does select the Senior Warden. Richard reminded everyone that the Senior Warden does need to be a member of the Vestry. Ron echoed Richard's remarks and stated that if Dean Andy has a candidate that he wants for this spot that the Vestry will elect, by vote, to confirm their election. The by-laws advise as to the sequence we are to follow, unless otherwise guided by the Chancellor. Dean Andy did share that he approached a couple of people that are currently on the Vestry to gauge their interest in the role of Senior Warden, but none were interested.

The Vestry shared the names of people that would be interested in serving on the Vestry. Ron suggested that in the future that we should engage in activities that would generate more interest in parishioners to serve on the Vestry. Richard agreed that we should be periodically discussing strengthening and recruiting the Vestry bench. Robin suggested that with consideration to the culture of Covid that people are likely more reticent to run for Vestry. She went on to express that Dean Andy only had three months of in-person worship services to get to know the congregation so it's unrealistic to expect him to be able to better select Vestry leadership. Dean Andy likes the idea of discussing potential Vestry members more routinely and talk to people about it, which will be easier once we're back in-person. Jeff said that he would be happy to take the role as point of contact to reach out to people to encourage interest in the Vestry.

The Vestry deliberated on those who had been suggested for election based on interest discovered by various Vestry members during recent conversations with willing and qualified candidates. After deliberation, the Vestry elected Candy McDowell to fill Paula Connor's term and Dean Andy appointed her as Senior Warden through January, 2022. The Vestry did also elect Sarah Ingram-Eiser as an alternate in the event that Candy does not accept her election.

Dean Andy announced that he has decided on who he would like to hire for the Associate Priest position. He requested that the Vestry consider an allowance of up to \$15,000 for moving expenses. Dave Barker had previously confirmed that we have enough cash that it could be taken from Operating Expenses without issue. Dean Andy confirmed that the salary for Associate Priest, Children's Ministry, and Youth Director have all been approved for the budget. The \$15,000 would be declared as income and will be taxed as such. Jeff Johnson motioned that up to \$15,000 be approved for moving expenses to relocate the Associate Priest, with the understanding that the actual expense will likely be less than \$15,000 and that the funds would be drawn from Operating Expenses. The motion was seconded by Sharon Cheers. The eight Vestry members on the Zoom call approved the motion by unanimous voice vote.

Dean Andy shared that we're down to two candidates for the Children's Ministry position and a final decision should be made soon after one other's opinions are obtained.

Julie met with the group that gave us the bid on the video equipment. They decided that the control room, per Chris Morrison and Julie Toma, should be in the acolyte room. That way it's not disturbing the Cathedral. They also discussed how to protect the equipment from water damage since that room has a history of flooding. If we mount the camera below the choir loft that we would need a stabilizer, so that has been added to the bid. Additional cameras can be plugged into a panel on the floor at the front of the room. They confirmed that electrical systems can carry everything. We can get a higher tier camera and it will be included that way in the bid. The control board is scalable. Julie has put out for a third bid but hasn't heard back yet. We will eventually vote on the final bid to approve it. Training is included in the bid and Chris Morrison is excited and willing to oversee it and train others to use it.

The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be Thursday, March 25, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phaedra Fahnestock, Vestry Clerk