

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry

Thursday, April 22, 2021

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

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 Regular Vestry meeting on March 25, 2021. Per feedback from Candy McDowell, last names will be included in the minutes going forward and motions will be yellow highlighted. **Candy McDowell moved to accept the March 25, 2021 minutes, the motion was seconded by Jeff Johnson, and the minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.**

2. Dean's Report

In person services have been going very well. There were 56 in attendance the first week and 64 this past Sunday. We decided to change up a few things, such as the flow of people through Communion. It's been good to have people in the Cathedral.

Starting May 5th at 12:05pm, the Wednesday mid-day Eucharist will be an in-person service but we will only take up to 10 people. Noonday prayer will still be streamed online and prerecorded on Tuesday. We can't use the chapel because it holds instruments. Masks will still be required. Dean Andy is hoping that we can bring the 10:15am service back to in-person by Pentecost.

At the Vestry Retreat we discussed setting up a separate time to work on the Vestry Covenant. This should take about 30-45mins at a time, once-a-week. Dean Andy will send out an invite for Mondays at 5:30pm. Please read the section on Vestry Covenants from the Resource Guide in advance of the meeting.

The fund for the playground is at about \$19,000 and we have previously discussed using an additional \$10,000 to get the playground completed. Jeff Johnson wanted to clarify, prior to making a motion, that he and Candy McDowell discussed the playground needs. He spoke with Gary Bressman. Gary ballparked \$30,000 for the turf, which wasn't an official bid. He felt that costs could be mitigated by having volunteers do some of the clearing and prepping of the site and also possibly by receiving donations from participating partners. Gary was excited and confident about the opportunity. Sharon Cheers asked that the proposal please be submitted in writing. Richard Morse wondered if we should ask the congregation once again to donate to the fund. Jeff Johnson suggested that perhaps an addition to the area, a picnic table perhaps, might be good rather than asking for additional contributions to the resurfacing project. Ken Stewart suggested that maybe part-way through the project we could share photos of the progress and influence some additional donations at that time. Gary will have to come on site with his own shovel within the next couple of weeks to look closer at the situation. **Jeff Johnson moved to approve the tapping of up to \$10,000 from the 1104 Trust Fund UMB to supplement the \$19,532.84 (2425 – Garden Guild) previously raised in order to move forward with the playground resurfacing. The motion was seconded by Sharon Cheers, and passed by unanimous voice vote following brief discussion.**

Dean Andy advised that he will not be at the 5:00pm service on Pentecost, May 23rd. Retired priest, Darrel Proffitt, will supply on that day. The Dean will also be on vacation June 13th and 20th.

The Parochial Report has been sent out. We need to talk about the Narrative section, although maybe not tonight. It doesn't need to be overly detailed, but Dean Andy asked the Vestry to review the questions and put together a succinct response. It's past due already. We can either discuss it further during the Monday evening Covenant meetings or take care of it via email.

3. Financial Report

Due to intermittent poor internet connectivity, portions of Dave Barker's report were inaudible.

January and February were very strong, not as much in March. March was a little below budget but nothing alarming. We had a little bit of a bump up in the property number due to an insurance premium but that may correct next month. Utilities seem to be in line. Expenses are low relative to what they've been. We expect that when the new staff members begin, the salary numbers will increase. We are in a strong cash position. Expenses are under control and income is positive. The Cathedral's financial situation is in good shape. Jeff Johnson reminded the Vestry that 70% of the budget is borrowed from the Endowment.

Dean Andy shared that the Finance Committee wanted the Vestry to consider moving funds from lesser used fund categories, such as Parish Life (due to Covid), to others, such as Social Justice or Outreach. Dave Barker shared that yes, we can do that but to keep in mind that we're borrowing from the Endowment. If we have a need, we can shift things around.

Jeff Johnson noted that the cash account looks like it runs down in May and June and then peaks, which Steve Moore reminded is when the Kemper money comes in. Jeff Johnson shared that it's notable that it does end up a little lower than where we are now, according to the budget. 2021 is budgeted to finish off with \$237,000 in ending cash, which is about a hundred more than what we'd normally carry over.

4. Stewardship Report

Steve Moore updated that some pledges that we thought were not renewed, were actually renewed without a pledge card. We now have 139 pledges totaling \$431,738. The average pledge is \$3,106, which is the highest Steve can remember, ever. We still have 22 non-renewed pledges, which total around \$50,000. A reasonable final number for the year would be somewhere between \$450,000-\$460,000. The Dean and the Stewardship Committee have been working on the concept of year-round stewardship, splitting the year between financial stewardship with time-and-talent stewardship. In coordination with Ric Sweeting, we are changing the Rogation Day to May 15th. Ric will work on a list of projects that we can work on, which may even include tearing up the old playground surface. The generosity of the congregation this year is overwhelming.

Dean Andy shared that he met with Ric and Angie yesterday and they'll get him the list of jobs for Rogation Day, from 9am to noon on May 15th. If anyone wants to adopt a garden bed, that will be an option. They'll bring plants and we'll be encouraged to bring tools/equipment if we have it. Nick felt that Young Adults will likely participate as well.

5. Junior Warden's Report

Richard Morse shared that Ken Stewart has a suggestion to add a bike rack to the grounds. Ken would like to add two or three bike racks in the grass near the curb where parishioners pull in from Broadway. They're about

\$175-\$200 each for powder-covered metal rack. Each rack holds two bikes, one on each side. We could start with two and add more as needed. Sharon Cheers suggested that all the bike racks in the area are on public property and that having it on private property could create responsibility to the Cathedral similar to what we encounter with parking. Sharon is concerned about any sort of damage or theft that could occur. Ron Michka wondered if the city could put a rack in on the sidewalk instead. Maybe BikeKC has recommendations. Ron would support a motion once more specifics have been provided. **Ken Stewart moved to proceed with getting pricing on having bike rack(s) installed on property. It was seconded by Robin Rusconi. Jeff Johnson wanted to make sure that Sharon Cheers and Buildings and Grounds to have the opportunity to review the proposal. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.** Ken will get pricing.

6. Senior Warden's Report

Candy McDowell shared that she has had conversations with everyone on the Vestry and others. She started a file of suggestions gathered while talking with all of the people. We do have some new banners on order but they haven't delivered yet. The playground and Covenant both came up several times as well as getting people answering the office phones rather than answering machines. Betsy Chase volunteered to come back to the Cathedral to volunteer in the office. Candy has talked with Julie about beefing up the office volunteer role.

Kansas City Southern Railway Company is on the market. The two contenders are Canadian Pacific and Canadian National, both of which are reporting to make Kansas City their corporate headquarters. We will need to make sure that our parking agreement is under review.

7. Vestry Liaison Reports

Sharon Cheers, ***Safety***

Sharon Cheers thanked Dean Andy for last Sunday's Prayers of the People regarding the, then pending, Chauvin trial. There's a sense of relief post-trial. Faith community leaders and others are continuing to work to improve relations. She will keep the Dean and the office apprised of the meetings she has with the city as a quasi-representative of the Cathedral.

Ron Michka, ***Community Engagement***

We've been having our conversations and it's been great talking with people. How do we get new people to connect with our groups? Ken Stewart's done a good job with starting things up, maybe he has some recommendations. As we open up, we want to be prepared. He could use some help with some of the community engagement things that we want to do. Nick Smith suggested that there's a new service where you can bounce from Zoom to Zoom. Maybe we could host a night where people could move from group to group. Ken suggested that it could be done via breakout sessions.

Amy Cornwell, ***Children's Formation***

Dean Andy shared on behalf of Amy:

Amy had a great conversation with Brittany yesterday. Amy, Linda Martin, and Brittany will be getting together in a few weeks to talk about what Linda achieved during Covid, what Children's Formation looked like in the past, and what Brittany sees for Children's Formation in the coming months / years. For now, Brittany is getting familiar with Realm, reading the WDMO guidelines / keeping children safe, etc. She's looking at the "Look / Book / Took" approach with Formation ... looking at the reading for the Sunday, tied to the scripture and lives,

and taking questions; she's also using the Joy / Growth / New Life as it relates to the church calendar, Easter and spring.

This past Sunday there were about 6-7 children in attendance, and she noted the range of age differences among them; she's looked at the Sunday School rooms, noted the Godly play inventory, and is looking forward to implementing a new format to Sunday school (especially with the hopes of being in-person).

She's also identifying policies and growing points so that when Deacon Ryan arrives they will coordinate efforts and expand accordingly (hopefully).

She's very excited, optimistic and energetic.

Phaedra Fahnestock, ***Outreach***

192 Easter Baskets were delivered to Crittenton and KAW Valley Children's Center and the children residing at Sheffield Place

202 Onesies were delivered to the Global Birthing Center from last year's drive (half were purchased by Outreach). Jim Grant the CEO of the Global Birthing Center was going to Haiti for the first time since Covid the first of May before this year's drive. Over 100 baby hats were also donated to the Global Birthing Center knitted from the Cathedral Knitting Group.

430 lbs. of food was delivered to Saint Paul's Pantry from food drive March 27.

Ken Stewart, ***Communications***

Ken had previously sent out the charge from the Communications Committee but he hasn't heard back from anyone yet. We want to encourage people to provide input even if they don't necessarily have time to participate in the committee. People are hyped up about a directory and finding out from Melissa what kind of information is useful to her. We know that we have Realm and access to it but it doesn't replace a tangible church directory. Candy McDowell feels that a picture directory is worth the associated costs. The last time we did them was 2014. Dean Andy let Ken know that the charge is fine as is.

For Easter, in the Quality Hill area, Ken received several invitations to Easter Services. He shared with the Vestry an example of the invitations from other area churches compared to the one that the Cathedral sent out. Ken felt that our marketing was lackluster by comparison to the other ones he received. Ron Michka suggested that the Cathedral may have sent out a different version of the mailer to parishioners versus guests.

Nick Smith, ***Young Adult***

Nick felt like everyone's face looked like a newcomer this past Sunday! Had a really interesting Young Adult Zoom. Several people had shared that they had made a commitment to themselves to be more involved with the Cathedral in 2020 and 2021 and they were emotional about the restrictions that they felt were preventing them from being as involved as they would prefer. There are more people than we may have realized that are ready to get back involved. People are detaching from feeling detached and are ready to get back involved.

Old Business

We need new office computers. The stagger method wasn't followed and now all of them need to be updated, which will cost roughly \$20,000, to include peripherals and moving to cloud-based services. After this we will go back to the staggered method. Dean Andy will email the details.

Ken Stewart shared that the Bookstore was open for the first time since last year and we had three sales!

Youth Sunday has been proposed to take place May 16th. Christine Morrison also has an end of school year party planned for May 22nd.

We discussed the idea of a Parish Picnic. Trinity Sunday is May 30th. Is that too soon? Bill Colvin said that he thinks it's a great idea but that we need to start planning it now. He also said that he would volunteer. Parish Life has budget for it. Robin Rusconi said that if we could find a way to safely serve food that she would help with grilling. We may need to have each family bring their own sides. Bill said that homemade ice cream is relatively easy to make.

New Business

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be Thursday, May 27, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phaedra Fahnestock, Vestry Clerk