

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

**Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry**

**Thursday, August 26, 2021**

Members Present: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse, *Dean*; The Rev. Ryan Wiksell, *Deacon*; Candy McDowell, *Senior Warden*; Richard Morse, *Junior Warden*; Phaedra Fahnstock, *Clerk*; Jeff Johnson, , Ron Michka, Pat Decker, Sharon Cheers, Ken Stewart

Members Absent: Amy Cornwell, Bill Colvin, Nick Smith

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 Fahnstock presented the amended minutes from the previous Regular Vestry meeting on July 22, 2021. Ron Michka asked about our policy regarding including discussion specifics that took place while considering qualities of Vestry candidates. Jeff Johnson suggested that it may be a good thing to illustrate the process that the Vestry employs and the discussions that took place. Dean Andy shared that when we have discussion about staff, we would ask visitors to leave during the discussion period. Phaedra will edit the minutes to state, "A discussion was had, and the Vestry voted to elect Kay Woolley". Ron Michka moved to accept the amended minutes and it was seconded by Jeff Johnson. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Dean's Report**

The Standing Committee of The Diocese of West Missouri has named their selection of a nominee for Bishop Provisional of West Missouri, The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce, who is currently serving as Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of Los Angeles. We are looking forward to her coming. She and Dean Andy have communicated by phone and email and have an upcoming Zoom scheduled to start discussing Martin Luther King Jr Day. We don't know how long that provisional period will be, potentially 1 to 3 years. Additional information about The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce is available on the Diocesan website.

Dean Andy has been working on getting a new Deacon assigned. The Vestry will be requested to vote to give Jerry Grabher the honorary title of Deacon Emeritus. Jerry will continue teaching formation classes but will no longer function liturgically.

Dean Andy has specifically requested a female Deacon in order to balance out the clergy. Bishop Marty has someone in mind but she will not be ready to start until after the first of the year. There's another candidate, Kevin White, who was in the Peace Corps in Morocco but was sent home due to Covid. He may go back to the Peace Corps. He was actually trained by Deacon Jerry at St. Mary's. He's doing work with Literacy KC right now and has been a teacher's assistant, among other things, in the past. He's from Saint Louis. He will start with us on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September. We can then later decide if we want to have two Deacons or not. An all-male clergy was not the intention, that's just how it worked out for the time being.

Dean Andy talked with Gary Bressman and he is reaching out to his people to put together a package on what needs to be done with the playground. Dean Andy should have that back from him within the next couple of weeks.

There was a period right after Dean Andy started when Christy Dorn and Jerry were working on the discretionary account to give utility and rent assistance type transactions. Since reopening, Dean Andy has been fairly active with it. We are spending money out of those funds for outreach, such as utility and rent assistance. We are looking at ways to expand this. Folks come in and request food or money for gas and other things and we don't have a good way to manage that. As an example, Dean Andy will be talking with Cosentino's about maybe a food voucher program. Jeff Johnson feels that he may have a good contact to assist with this and he will send that information to Dean Andy.

Since we made the switch to the cloud, our wifi continues to be horrible. Livestreaming seems to be fine. It's in the other building, particularly Haden and the office building, where the wifi is particularly problematic. This will be necessary as we progress toward hybrid formation classes. Richard and Julie have been talking with some people to discover what it would take to get it upgraded but Dean Andy doesn't have a solid quote yet on what it will take to get it to where it needs to be.

Candy moved to name Jerry Grabher Deacon Emeritus. It was seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Associate's Report

Ryan was looking at Google Maps and there are at least three gas stations close for potential opportunities on ways to use the discretionary funds for gas assistance.

Ryan's two major discussion points today are 1. Youth and College Ministry position – Ryan performed a second interview with one candidate, another interview scheduled for tomorrow, and six or so candidates in total and 2. Synexis air treatment technology.

Everyone should have an email regarding Synexis Air treatment Technology. We're going to get the Buildings and Grounds Committee together to go into much more detail and to get their thoughts on the matter. Dean Andy and Ryan met with Synexis in Lenexa and learned a ton, particularly about chemistry. Ryan strongly encouraged the Vestry to review the news stories included in the email to get an overall picture of the program. The fourth point under the Technology section indicates that this isn't merely a circulatory system. It's an air treatment system that uses gaseous hydrogen peroxide that kills biomatter that are in the air, such as viruses, bacteria, and mold. Multiple peer review studies testify to the efficacy of this system on viruses. The company has had to jump through many hoops in order to make some of the public claims. Trane, Miami Dade Public Schools, and the Pentagon are all examples of partnerships with Synexis. It just sits in a room on a stand and it is easily moved from one room to another, or it can be mounted on the wall, or incorporated into the duct work. It's \$7,800 one time fee then \$800 annually for maintenance, such as filters. That would protect two classrooms in Haden Hall. To do the Nursery the way they've recommend, it's \$5,000 worth of separate units but we could cut that in half if we wanted to start small. They can do it within a week or two of signing on. They're very interested in working with us in order to open up the potential of additional opportunities with other area churches. Dean Andy said that Buildings and Grounds will discuss it and bring their recommendation to the Vestry. Ken asked if the Nave is being considered for this treatment. Ryan said that the size and age of the Nave and ducts would require a special consultation and Dean Andy said that it's all up for consideration, including the book store.

### 4. Financial Report

Just a FYI, Buildings and Grounds are working on putting together a meeting to discuss Ryan's air technology proposal.

The Finance Committee is starting to put together a Budget Committee for next year. We will ask responsible parties for their projections for next year. We would like to invite any interested parties from the Vestry to be on the committee. Please let Dave Barker know if you want to be on it.

The Finance Report now includes a half-page-long summary section regarding where we stand financially (see attached).

Income items continue to be good. Pledges for July were above budget and above last year. Expenses have been lower than the budget projected for the most part. It's been going on long enough that it's a trend. 70% of what we spend is covered by endowments.

We continue to have a lot of cash available to us at the moment. We can use this to mitigate mold and viruses or to do something about lighting.

Asset base is fine and operating results look fine.

Jeff Johnson moved to accept the Financial Report. Candy seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

## 5. Stewardship Report

We are now kicking off the 2022 campaign with Ryan's sermon this Sunday.

"Return, Rekindle, Rejoice" is the theme. An initial letter will be sent out in about two weeks. The logo design is a work in progress. We have every confidence that we will have a uniquely successful campaign this year. We will be asking Vestry to get their pledges in early just to show good leadership.

Starting soon we will include the Prayer for Stewardship, retooled to fit this theme.

## 6. Junior Warden's Report

Building and Grounds is considering the lighting in Founders' Hall and upgrading to LED solutions. If we did that it would be in the \$42,000-43,000 range. Richard estimates a six-year payback.

We have the bike racks. Ken said they took a while to get here and they were accidently delivered to Immaculate Conception. The person that Ken was working with on installation hasn't been with the company for six months so he's starting anew with them. He went to Menards and got some paving stones to use. Right now the bike racks are in the book store, pending an installation date. Angie had already called to have utilities marked, which should be done by tomorrow. Once that's complete, it shouldn't take much longer.

## 7. Senior Warden's Report

The CEEP conference, the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes, will be Feb 23-26, 2022 in Atlanta, GA. The name of the conference is "The Hopeful Journey, Exploring God's Path Forward". Andy, Ryan, and Candy will attend for sure. When we find out more details regarding the sessions, we might see what interest that

inspires in us. Candy pondered it by including the word “Forward” in the name of the conference that it may suggest that other churches are also feeling stalled with Covid

We had a meeting a few weeks ago about Task Forces. The areas that came to light were Community Events and Parish Life tasks forces, both of which will need to review and revise our guidelines and do’s/don’ts regarding facilities usage. We want to look at how we can be a good venue and good hosts for internal and external events. We’ll be calling on people to be parts of those groups.

We’ve been looking at Outreach and what we have budgeted. We have a great deal of funds in the Outreach Ministries account. Not much has been reserved to be used the rest of this year. We don’t want to just be writing checks, we want to have involvement and be engaged. We want people to feel that they *belong* at Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral and that’s one of our biggest challenges right now. We need to start taking some small steps to move forward.

Ryan had suggested that the macro areas of the task forces, such as childcare and food services, should be considered “Haden Hall” and “Lower Founders” as a way to look at what we’re really trying to accomplish. We had a wonderful conversation with Carrie at Commerce Bank and she’s very enthusiastic about the potential of putting a childcare or early child education at the Cathedral. The state of MO is now funding early ed for 3-4 year olds. Crossroads Academy has a total of 1200 students and MO will fund 48 of them. We can also find out what they do for their food service. Maybe there’s something we can do with Lower Founders’. Carrie also suggested that we explore Kansas City Street Medicine. She recommended that Candy talk to Buzz Willard, Chairman of the Board of St. Luke’s Hospital and has served as Senior Warden at St. Paul’s. He suggested that Candy talk to Sean O’Byrne. Maybe we can engage the Downtown Council to bring outreach ministries back to our campus. Julie Quirin is COO at St. Luke’s and may be interested in having a clinic of some sort located in downstairs Founders’. Kay asked if Crossroads has worked with Saint Paul’s. If we have a good preschool at GHTC, we could then serve as a feeder into Saint Paul’s. Candy agreed with that thought. Trying to recreate the wheel makes less sense than partnering with someone who already knows how to do it. Kay felt that maybe our partnership with Saint Paul’s could help with acceptance. Ryan said that Crossroads is a charter school within the Kansas City district. It’s tuition free but limited to families that live or work downtown. Candy said that we could get state funding but we’d have to figure out how to navigate the relationship with the state since we’re a Christian school. Ryan clarified that it would be advantageous that we be feeders into both Crossroads as well as Saint Paul’s. Pat suggested that there are other schools out south that may be looking for students as a result of the pandemic. Ken said that Crossroads has a lottery system for acceptance. It’s weighed by zip code and Candy said it’s also weighted for family units.

#### **8. Vestry Liaison Reports (to be sent via email)**

Sharon, Cheers, *Safety*

ComiCon was going on last weekend and we had some related parking issues. Going forward, when we have internal or external events, parking should be handled by officers to not only help direct traffic, but also direct people from the parking lot to the church. The Cathedral is part of Hospitality and Outreach. We need to have a volunteer to act as a liaison between the event and the Cathedral to direct folks to the restrooms and help people find what they’re looking for. Emergency preparedness needs to be considered when arranging events. We had this ironed out pre-Covid but have become somewhat rusty since then.

Ron Michka, *Community Engagement*

Ron thanked Sharon for all that she does. She steps up and does a lot.

Ron sent out an email regarding Tuesday Conversations and encouraged everyone to look over that.

Our Community Engagement Ambassador Program has a presence with the Downtown Council and would like Dean Andy and/or Ryan to participate in some manner. The City Council is reevaluating its master plan which will impact earlier plans for the Barney Allis Plaza and development at 13th and Broadway near the Cathedral. GHTC should keep an eye on these plans.

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

Phaedra Fahnestock, ***Outreach***

The Cathedral donated 887 school supplies to Crittenton Children's Center to be distributed to both residential and foster care children.

The outreach committee has voted to send \$5,000 to Haiti's Maison de Naissance to help with all the damage after the recent earthquake.

The last diaper drive of 2021 will be held during the month of September, which celebrates National Diaper Need Awareness Week the last week in September.

If anyone is interested in attending the Diaper Bowl, September 13th please get in touch with Terri. The Cathedral is a Gold Sponsor of this event and there are several spots open for those who want to attend. This is a wonderful marketing opportunity to get our name out in the community. There is also a great live and silent auction. This information is on the Happy Bottoms website.

Ken Stewart, ***Communications***

Nick Smith, ***Young Adult***

### **Old Business**

Sharon asked about the Church Insurance visit. Dean Andy said that Julie is working with them. A date has not been scheduled yet. They may not know more until after Labor Day.

### **New Business**

Richard Morse asked about Afghan refugee assistance. Dean Andy will look into this. Mayor Lucas has invited refugees to Kansas City but he doesn't know details.

Sharon suggested that Dean Andy include the school supply donation quantity on the Sunday that the backpacks are blessed.

September 18<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup> are the next Diversity workshops but that won't work for us because the October 2<sup>nd</sup> date conflicts with Ryan's ordination. Since you have to attend both dates in order to get credit, we will look for the next opportunity to participate.

Jeff Johnson moved to adjourn. Richard seconded it, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be Thursday, September 23, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phaedra Fahnestock, Vestry Clerk