

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry

Thursday, October 28, 2021

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

Members Absent:

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 amended minutes from the previous Regular Vestry meeting on September 23, 2021. **Ken Stewart moved to accept the amended minutes and it was seconded by Candy McDowell. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.**

2. Dean's Report

Fall Festival is this Sunday following the 10:30AM service. We will have an inflatable obstacle course available for children and youth.

All Saints' Sunday is coming up on November 7th. We will have three baptisms that day.

Kirkin' o' the Tartans is the following Sunday, the 14th, with one bagpiper. Someone will present the banner for blessing. Our Hymn Sing is later that day at 3:30pm.

The Advent Devotional is being put together and should be available soon.

The Angelus is being finalized and will be distributed next week for Nov/Dec/Jan.

Diocesan Convention is next Friday and Saturday at the Cathedral in a hybrid setting. There will be a vote on the Diocesan budget and the Standing Committee's nominee for Provisional Bishop. Assuming The Rt. Reverend Diane Bruce is approved, she will preside and preach at the 5:00pm service on Christmas Eve. The Cathedral staff will conduct the late service.

Last meeting, we talked about the possibility of moving \$5000 from the Outreach Budget to the Clergy Discretionary Fund but we never made the motion to actually make it happen.

Candy McDowell moved to move \$5,000 from the Outreach Fund to the Clergy Discretionary Fund. It was seconded by Sharon Cheers and passed unanimously.

Ryan is working on a card system so that people requesting help can fill out a contact card.

Dean Andy would like to move forward with naming Ryan as Canon and would like to make it official on All Saints' Sunday. His title will be The Reverend Canon Ryan Wiksell, Canon Minister for Children, Youth, and Newcomers.

We are moving forward with a picture directory. Ken shared that there's been some confusion and lack of progress on the new directory and the level of involvement required by the Communications Committee. Dean Andy said that we would like to get the pictorial directory complete, printed and on Realm, and that it will be the Communications Committee's charge. The Vestry will make calls to parishioners prior to the holiday season and plug the picture directory during those calls.

Dean Andy reached out to Gary today regarding the playground but hasn't heard back quite yet. An email will be sent out once we have an answer on when the materials will arrive.

3. Associate's Report

Ryan thanked the Vestry and Cathedral parish for the Clergy Retreat. He made connections and is building relationships with clergy from other local parishes.

Ryan is trying to make some connections with other non-profit service agencies in the downtown area to put together a care-kit program. He thinks that adding the cards to the outreach assistance efforts will help professionalize the process. For now, anyone who knows the location of the cards can pass them out to people to fill out and it can then be slid under the door to the stairs that lead up to the offices. We can consider adding a drop box later. Either Dean Andy or Reverend Ryan will then contact the person in need. Ron shared that Spire Natural Gas does help with gas bill payments.

4. Financial Report

Financials continue to be favorable. Income bounced back some in September versus August. The funds that are invested in long-term had a minor dip in September. Sharon asked about User Fees now that the Cathedral is back open to outside events. It's difficult for staff that are also working funerals and weddings at the same time as these other events. Are we getting the funds for those events? Dave said that no, we aren't, but there's no reason why we can't park cars again if we have reason to believe that people will be looking for parking spots. Jeff shared that User Fees are \$5,000 YTD. Last year it was \$19,000 once you remove the PPE receipt. September User Fees were \$300. Ron reviewed the Men's Chorus schedule and wondered if they were paying. Dave considered that maybe there's a delay in receipt of the income, September events may not get paid until October.

We had the first Budget meeting this month and there are no problems thus far. All the preliminary numbers look great but some still need to be refined. We will meet again in November to get the most current numbers. We expect to finish this work on the 10th of November and will be prepared to bring the report to the Vestry for vote shortly thereafter. Kay wondered if our numbers are good because the market is good or is it because of pledges and plate offerings and Dave confirmed that it's both. The part of the endowment that's turned over to Operations is based on a three year rolling average. We are dropping off a poor year and moving into a hefty one. You don't want to show a big surplus in the budget. Richard asked if we want to consider not taking the endowment draw this year. Dave said that it would make sense for the Vestry to decide not to transfer the funds from the endowment unless or until it becomes needed. Ron wondered who is watching over the mission of our church about how to spend our money. Dave suggested that it's the Vestry that decides how to spend the money. Ron feels that we need to have more of a heart-to-heart that focuses our financial intentions. Ryan

feels that Mission Forward is an effort to establish some values from us to draw upon when we have financial decisions to make. Candy said that the Budget Committee acts appropriately and that the Mission Forward concept helps us to be mission driven. Dean Andy said that when the Budget Committee presents their recommendations to the Vestry that this is the opportunity to make changes at that time. Dave stated that some of the things that have created excess funds have since changed. Expenses will normalize. We are now fully staffed. The Stewardship Campaign has been stellar. Ron wants to make sure that the Vestry best utilizes our resources in order to grow our church. Dave cautioned against considering all positive variances to be "extra money" but to instead consider it less money to take from the endowment. Jeff reminded the group that our Mission Forward conversations that we were having on Mondays were meant to work on strategic visions and how to plan resources. Ryan felt that there's pragmatic value in becoming self-sufficient rather than being so dependent upon the endowment.

Jeff Johnson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Richard Morse seconded it, and it passed unanimously without further discussion.

5. Stewardship Report

The most recent report Steve Moore has from last Thursday indicates 53 pledges for \$153,000 compared to this time last year of 54 pledges for \$176,000. He's confident that things are trending in the right direction. Last year we had 2 new pledges, this year we have 7 new pledges. We'll send out another letter in a week or week and a half to those that have not yet renewed their pledges. Realm is very user friendly.

6. Junior Warden's Report

Richard has nothing new of significance to report.

7. Senior Warden's Report

Candy thanked Ron for spearheading the Croquet tournament.

Last week Dean Andy and Candy met with Mary Mulkey, Director of Education at Operation Breakthrough located at 30th and Troost. They are one of the members of the Kansas City Pre-K Cooperative. They have two pre-k classrooms that are part of that Cooperative. Their tuitions are funded through Bishop Hogan Academy and some charter schools and a couple of Kansas City public schools. Mary was very enthusiastic about our space and the accessibility of our campus. Looking at our space, the current Youth room would be the best space that could gain licensing due to the physical part of the operation. Accreditation has to do with the academic part of the program. Then funding is another part to be addressed. There are other spaces, such as a teacher planning area, that may be necessary. We may need breakout areas as well. With Mary's help, our next step is to build an itinerary for what it would take to open one classroom by next August. We will look at the congregation to see if anyone of expertise on this subject would be willing to assist. This would be outside of the budget. If anyone knows of people in the congregation that are used to red tape associated with the educational system to please let her know. Ryan wondered about Haden Hall and its feasibility for our own purposes as well as any additional purposes regarding insurance and other things. The Church Insurance Assessment is not yet on the calendar. Ryan would like to be involved with the assessments.

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

Sharon, Cheers, *Safety*

As the Cathedral opens for more events and programs, the Sunday Security Officers have been very helpful. They assisted a visitor, who appeared to need medical attention and took the person to TMC/University Health on Sunday October 18. On Sunday, October 24, the Officers and Sexton Mike Guidry assisted Brittany Savage and Joan Bock with a situation.

Please feel free to speak with the Officers Johnson and Rhodes, who regularly work the Sunday mornings, about any concerns. They have radio communication with the Sexton and me. They generally patrol the campus both on foot and in their vehicles. They like getting to know parishioners and the Sunday Staff, and are very willing to assist us. If you have any suggestions for the Safety/Security Committee, please let me know.

Again, I highly recommend Off Duty KCPD or Jackson County Sheriff Officers and/or Downtown Council-CID-Security Officers for all events at the cathedral.

Ron Michka, ***Community Engagement***

Croquet Tournament went well. Hopefully this won't be considered a single event but will serve as a springboard for additional ideas on bringing people together in social gatherings.

Coming up: Downtown Council meeting is next Thursday, 11/4 from 8:00-9:30pm.

Tuesday Conversations take place every week and they're good conversations, but attendance has dwindled.

Dean Andy reiterated gratitude to Ron and the committee for their efforts in the Croquet Tournament.

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

Phaedra Fahnestock, ***Outreach***

Sent \$5,000 to Maison de Naissance in Haiti after the damage to the birthing center due to the earthquake

Met with Dave Johnson from Chicago who donated 10 large bags of new Winter Clothing for the Free Store in December that we are in partnership with Saint Andrews and Saint Augustine. This year the Dinner and Free Store will be held at the Cathedral, December 18th, with set-up December 17th...hoping to have volunteers this year from the Cathedral!

Started purchasing the 100 pairs of winter boots for (the above mentioned) Free Store

Provided a pizza Dinner to Sheffield Place on Thursday, October 21st. Sheffield Place is a transitional, safe shelter for women and children. They recently acquired another house in the Sheffield neighborhood now accommodating 24 families. The Pizza came from Sarpino's. Please consider purchasing your next take-out pizza from them. In June they provided the pizzas free of charge, in October sold them to us at cost.

300 lbs of food has currently been collected during the October Food Drive, Trick or Treat so others Can Eat

The backsnack program with Harvesters started in October, currently we have 3 schools vs. 5 schools prior to Covid. There are several opportunities to volunteer!!!

\$1,000 was donated to Nourish KC during Hunger Month

The Cathedral will be participating in a Coat Drive during November and December for Afghani refugees spearheaded by Larry Ehren and Saint Magdalene Church. All winter coats must either be new or gently used and CLEANED!

Ken Stewart, *Communications*

Nick Smith, Young Adult

Old Business

New Business

Sharon Cheers shared via chat that by the November Vestry meeting, we will be going into full production for The Nativity performances in early December. Our group, called Nativity Puppets, is fully organizational (articles of incorporation/bylaws) and have our IRs designation (EIN), bank account with Commerce bank, all social media platforms (FB/ Paypal/website) are live.

We have some cancellations that have occurred this week. Paul Meier is having some Covid-related issues with soloists and musicians and have decided to cancel this year's performance of The Singalong Messiah.

The William Jewell "City Come Again" will be an online event only and will not take place at the Cathedral.

Dean Andy had someone ask him about the possibility of restoring the Eagle Lectern back to the Cathedral. Ron and Kay both expressed enthusiastic interest in returning the lectern to the Cathedral. As a whole, the Vestry is in favor of bringing the Eagle Lectern back.

Ken wondered about re-padding the kneelers. Dean Andy said he would bring it up to Buildings and Grounds.

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m. in prayer. The next regular meeting of the Vestry will be Wednesday, November 17, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phaedra Fahnestock, Vestry Clerk