

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

**Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry**

**Thursday, January 27, 2022**

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

Members Absent: *Senior Warden*; Richard Morse

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 was late to the meeting so Dean Andy presented the minutes from the previous Regular Vestry meeting on December 20, 2021. Ron Michka identified two points of clarification for the Vestry Liaison Report on Community Engagement. Candy McDowell moved to accept the amended minutes and it was seconded by Kay Woolley. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

**2. Dean's Report**

Dean Andy extended gratitude to outgoing Vestry members Jeff Johnson, Phaedra Fahnestock, Richard Morse, and Sharon Cheers. After the Annual Meeting the Vestry, along with the newly elected members, will meet briefly to elect officers of the Vestry, Jr. Warden and Clerk, and to set a date for the Vestry Retreat. Our normal Vestry meeting in February would be on the 24<sup>th</sup> but that coincides with the CEEP Conference so we will have the Vestry meeting a week sooner than normal, on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The Vestry Retreat will be some date in March.

Upcoming events: Annual Meeting on Sunday, Invite Welcome Connect webinar February 9<sup>th</sup>, and CEEP Conference February 23-26 in Atlanta in-person (masks and vaccinations are mandatory). The CEEP theme this year is, "The Hopeful Journey, Exploring God's Path Forward." There will be several keynote speakers throughout the event. It will be located at the Westin Peachtree in Atlanta, hosted by All Saints' Episcopal Church, and the preacher for Friday's worship will be The Honorable Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock.

Dean Andy and Candy talked recently regarding the hostage/active shooter event that occurred in the synagogue in Texas. We may want to consider having a member of the police department come train the Vestry about how to handle an active shooter situation. It would be good for the Vestry to have a written plan to know what the protocol is if something should happen. Dean Andy will get that set up sometime soon. Sharon will forward the Dean some contact information.

**3. Associate's Report**

We missed updating the calendar to show that this Sunday is one service. Right now all three services are showing up.

The sandwiches and cookie's for Coffee Hour seem to be going well. It's provided a great environment for visitors to engage. The Rev. Can. Ryan continues Coffee with the Canon and this morning's session was with Deacon Kevin. Deacon Kevin will be introducing Rev. Can. Ryan to a friend of his who participates in outreach activities with foster children to help prepare them with life skills and employable skills.

Rev. Can. Ryan also met with Joe Swimmer, the Executive Director with CEEP. Rev. Can. Ryan's focus for CEEP is called "Third Place", which is about creating community space at your church. We will connect more on this in Atlanta.

The Old Testament class, with the help of Jeff and Valerie, seems to be going really well. Every Sunday we have had 5-7 people in the room plus some on Zoom.

Brittany Sparrow Savage is getting started on Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DE&I). We will be examining our racial profile, history of race relations, and an evaluation of whether we are diverse, equitable, and inclusive. Brittany's life experience and educational experience make her a trusted resource for conducting this investigation. She's spending 50 hours prior to CEEP to prepare for this learning at CEEP. She's decided to focus on art in our worship space. Some of the seminars she will be attending at CEEP are specific to diversity and racial reconciliation. She will then develop some training. Not only do we need to look at who we are as a parish in diversity, but also from an outreach perspective and the impact we can make on our community.

Figuring out what to do with Lower Founders is something that's under review. Looking at the possibilities of a remodel of that space into a hospitable space with a coffee shop. The preschool that Candy has been working on would be at Haden Hall.

#### **4. Financial Report**

Financially, 2021 was a fantastic year. We ended the year in good condition. The month of December had a plate budget was \$3,300, and it came in at \$8,780. Everything else is in line with what was budgeted. 2022 will have its own challenges and we will not be taking as much from the endowment. The price of natural gas has skyrocketed.

We had talked before the meeting about a LED sign for the Cathedral. It would be a two-sided sign, seen clearly traveling north and south on Broadway. The quote was for \$50,000, which is flexible based on how detailed we want the graphics to be. We're not close to seriously considering this yet. Dean Andy commented that it looks much nicer than he thought it would. Candy asked if they could provide an example of what the sign would look like from the street-view rather than from on the property. Dave said we can have them provide a rendition with and without the fence but without the fence we would have to have some sort of barrier to protect the sign from being damaged. Candy also wondered what the scope of maintaining the sign would be. Dave says that there is no maintenance, only training on how to set up the graphics. They will provide us with traffic data so that we understand how many cars are driving by the sign. Candy also inquired as to how this bubbled up. Did it come up from Communications or Marketing or somewhere else? Dave wasn't sure of the impetus. Can. Ryan wants us to consider the three red lights where cars will be sitting in relation to the positioning of the sign. It will be important that it's visible from 13<sup>th</sup> Street. If you get the angles right it might work out so that it can be seen from all three vantage points. Can. Ryan feels that it should be raised up higher. Dean Andy suggested that maybe a shorter fence would help. Candy raised the importance of being aware that constantly changing signs could become a safety issue if it's distracting drivers. Ron Michka suggested using two signs that are both

one-sided displays and angle them at both corners of the campus may be a good idea. Dean Andy shared that the proposed location of the sign is already wired for electrical whereas the other locations likely are not.

There's a refrigerator situation in Founders' Hall. A new one has been ordered and it cost just under \$3000. The fridge in the kitchen downstairs isn't working but for \$250 it will be fixed. The walk-in cooler isn't functional and is being used as storage right now. Dave doesn't feel that it's worth the money to repair it since we don't have a use for it. From the Broadway entrance, there's a storage area that has two enormous freezers and two enormous refrigerators. The fridges cannot be repaired but the freezers can for about \$250 each. If we fix all three at once, we can save money on the service calls. Dean Andy reminded that the ranges will also be examined for possible repair.

#### **5. Stewardship Report**

The most recent report shows that we've received 107 pledges totaling \$355,000 versus same time last year of 124 pledges totaling \$364,000. The good news is that our average pledge is about 10% higher than it has been in the past. We have 14 new pledges. Steve and Dean Andy will follow up with the 42 that have not yet renewed. Historically we have received pledges well into springtime.

#### **6. Junior Warden's Report**

Richard was not in attendance.

#### **7. Senior Warden's Report**

Candy has a dream for the upper Founders' kitchen and would like to see a team work together on this project. Last year Paula Connors began the annual meeting by commenting on how unpredictable 2020 was and that we won't get *back* to normal, but rather *forward* to normal. Candy is ready to take Jeff's previous suggestion about being ambitious. If we earmark the Youth Room, due to its proximity to the bathrooms, that will be the most pragmatic place to start with programming. When we consider the updates, we need to look at it as if we are doing it for ourselves. Please reach out to Candy with any questions. Ron thought it would be interesting to start thinking about what's next and what additional enhancements will be needed to get to the next level. The designer that we're working with is the same that helped with Operation Breakthrough. Candy shared that there are rules with the program that we need to keep under consideration, such as that we cannot have other programs going on during the pre-K hours that involve people who aren't licensed. We can start small and build over time. Kay wondered if the goal is to grow the congregation or to bring monetary remuneration to the Cathedral? Candy said that it's an outgrowth from the budget contingency group as a reaction to the need of the community for pre-kindergarten preparedness, especially for low-income families. If we grow the congregation as a result, that would be icing on the cake. If we do a program that does good in the community, we will do well in our church. Dean Andy added that the strategic plan will include other aspects to marketing and advertising that will help to grow the parish. Ron wondered how many seats we are planning to start with. Candy said that the CEO of Operation Breakthrough considered 20 students to be a breakeven number. It may be better to have more than one classroom. A small head start program may be the better way to get started. Ron wondered what the income restrictions are for families. Candy said that there are models where only a specified percentage of the students would be lower income. We're still learning and are hopeful that Stephen can help us.

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

Sharon, Cheers, *Safety*

Ron Michka, ***Community Engagement***

The Downtown Council gave a presentation on the expansion of the streetcar. If the Cathedral is interested in seeing the presentation, we could probably get a copy of that deck. The question is, how does the Cathedral benefit from the tax increase. Ron may ask the gentleman to join one of our meetings to help engage with that group to figure out how we can participate and benefit.

They are revising the Barney Allis Plaza. When Candy talks about thinking about what's happening in our community, this will have an impact since it's so close to us, whether that impacts our signage or lower Founders' or the Pre-K program. If they can get the funding taken care of, this could begin as soon as this year. It's a two-year development timeline. Those 960 parking spots will become a problem during this development time. We could try to help the community somehow by offering our space for parking. Ron is going to find out about how to have a for-profit entity that operates within the non-profit. Steve says that we can own the for-profit but we can't run it ourselves.

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

Phaedra Fahnestock, ***Outreach***

Ken Stewart, ***Communications***

Nick Smith, ***Young Adult***

**Old Business**

**New Business**

The next meeting will be February 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm via Zoom.

Dean Andy and Candy thanked the outgoing Vestry members once again.

Jeff Johnson moved to adjourn. It was seconded by Candy McDowell and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:57p.m. in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Phaedra Fahnestock, Vestry Clerk