

## Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

### Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, May 26, 2022

Approved at the July 28, 2022 Vestry meeting

Members Present In-Person: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse (Dean), Candy McDowell (Sr. Warden), Michael Thomas (Jr. Warden), Valerie Johnson (Clerk), Ken Stewart, Pat Decker, Bill Colvin, Sharon Cheers; Via teleconference: Ron Michka, Paula Livingston-Lewis

Members Absent: The Rev. Canon Ryan Wiksell (Associate), Amy Cornwell, Kay Woolley, Nick Smith

Others Present: Teleconference: David Barker (Treasurer), In-person: Steve Moore (Chancellor)

The meeting was held in a hybrid format (in Common Room and via Zoom teleconference). The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Dean Andy with opening worship.

#### Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Valerie Johnson presented the April 21, 2022, regular Vestry minutes for approval. These minutes were distributed with the Vestry Packet for review prior to the meeting.

Sharon Cheers moved to accept the minutes as presented and was seconded by Candy McDowell. The motion passed without further discussion.

#### Dean's Report, *The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse*

Strategic Planning Committee (SPC): Tom presented the "Stockholder Survey" to the SPC with an invitation to customize for use by the church. This will be sent out to the church members before convening focus groups. The SPC is planned to meet at the end June. The final overview/plan will be shared with the vestry during fall of 2022, which would be prior to the budgeting process.

Upcoming Events: The **Cathedral directory** update with photographs is underway. A photographer will be at the church on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. There may be additional times set based upon need. Vestry and staff members are asked to provide an individual photo. All members are encouraged to schedule time for a photograph or are welcome to submit a current photograph. **Pentecost /Parish picnic** will be on June 5. Members are invited to bring sides/desserts to accompany the main dish provided by the church. There will also be one baptism on Pentecost. **Parish Breakfast** was hosted on Sunday May 22. **Nancy Cavanaugh Funeral** will be on June 19, at 1:00 p.m. with a reception to follow. An opportunity to visit with family will also be during the coffee hour following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Convention Delegates: Based upon our parochial report, we will have 8 delegates attending in November 2022. Delegates also attend Deanery meetings so knowing who will serve is important so they can participate prior to November in the Deanery Council Meetings. Current GHTC delegates identified are: Chris Morrison, Christine Morrison, Ric Sweeting, Joyce Morrow, Sara Copeland. Three additional delegates are needed and once all are identified, the vestry will be asked to approve the delegates. The Diocesan Convention will be held in Kansas City at GHTC 1 night and 2 days in November.

**Associate's Report, The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse on behalf of The Rev. Canon Ryan Wiksell**

Welcome Bags for Newcomers: Mugs are now available and included with the Welcome Bags. They will consider making mugs available for sale for anyone else. Pricing and product availability is being discussed with the bookstore. Currently, a card/voucher for a coffee is included in the Welcome Bag for recipients to claim a free cup of coffee at Vested. Magnetic Nametags are on order for members of the Welcome Committee.

Episcopal Parish Network: Ryan is on the planning committee for next EPN (formerly CEEP) conference to be held early March 2023 in Jacksonville, FL. In 2025, the EPN conference may be hosted in Kansas City.

Children and Youth: Brittany and Clare have been working hard to expand their programs and engage in Outreach. Brittany has held the first of three "parents' time out" events. Clare has hosted meals and gatherings for Young Adults and College Students in addition to weekly youth activities.

Wider Community:

Canon Ryan's board membership with Nourish KC has continued and this will enable him to continue creating stronger bonds between NKC and the Episcopal community.

Canon Ryan has also been very active in meeting with parishioners, fellow clergy and others while engaging in activities with the KC Ballet, the Downtown Council and others—forming many valuable connections.

Adult Forum: First-Century Church class on Sunday mornings went very well and was well-attended.

William Jewell (WJ) College Center for Faith and Culture: It is currently suggested the classes be held on Wednesday evenings (6:30-7:30 p.m.) rather than Sunday mornings. The latest ending time would be 8 p.m. The sessions will be held for 4 weeks with a one week break followed by an additional 4 weeks of class. Proposed dates are September 14 through October 5 and October 19 through November 9. Canon Ryan will teach one of those 4-week sessions. In the spring semester, the proposed dates are January 25 through February 15 and March 1 through March 22. Dean Andy will teach one of those 4-week sessions. All classes will be hybrid. Topics being considered are "Christianity and the Enneagram" by Canon Ryan and "Sacred Spaces" by Dean Andy.

**Financial Report presented by David Barker, Treasurer**

The Financial Report and Financial Committee Minutes were included in the vestry packet prior to this meeting. Dave Barker (Treasurer) highlighted:

Statement of Activities (page 3 of the handout): *Ending Cash* column in April was \$322,788. Dave noted cash is dropping but in June the Kemper funds will bring this up to \$494,000. On page 1, financial results for April indicate *Pledge and Plate* were above budget and has continued to be strong. *Facility Expenses* this month have been low. The utilities element has been predictably higher (A/C, electric, etc.) Music expenses have been higher because of Easter with additional musicians. Eight choir members are now being paid. *Parish Life* expenses are up because of color printing used for Easter communications/publications. *User Fees* are up because of parking cars.

Dave explained that no bill was received from the Diocese in December so the parish had to 'catch up' with this payment to them.

As a follow up to discussion last month regarding GHTC percentage paid to the larger church. Dave reported the Diocesan Assessment has gone down over the years. In 1995-2005, 19% of the Operating Budget went to the Diocese. In 2006-2013 that dropped to 18%; and in 2014-2015 it decreased to 17%; 2016-2018 it was 16.39%; 2019-2022 it is now 13.92%. The Diocesan Council determines the assessment but Dave would like to better understand the overall process and will do some research about it.

**Sharon Cheers moved to accept the Financial Report as presented and was seconded by Michael Thomas. The motion passed with no further discussion.**

(Dave Barker, Treasurer, departed the meeting at this time.)

#### **Stewardship Report** *presented by Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair*

We're at 135 pledges for \$458,826 so we have exceeded budget. Last month we were slightly lower than budget. Average pledge is up approximately 10% from \$3,100 to \$3,400. 19 new pledges. Two years ago, we were at \$417k, last year was \$431k, and this year it is \$458k. Steve would like us to aim for upper \$400's this year. A tremendous goal would be to achieve \$500,000 in pledges for next campaign. People are generously supporting the church during this difficult time.

#### **Junior Warden Report** *presented by Michael Thomas*

##### Buildings and Grounds projects:

Reredos in Diocesan Close: Joe Rogers from the Nelson Atkins Museum will be evaluating tomorrow (5/27/2022) with some assessment of the condition and proposal for repair/preservation.

Kneelers: The first 3 kneelers (north side/lectern side) have been detached from the pews with slides installed on the feet to see how parishioners like that adjustment before expanding to the rest of the nave. Because the choir is seated in those pews, there may be limited access for parishioners to 'try' this adjustment. Other pews may need to be detached for 'trial use' and Michael will speak with Dave Barker about doing this for some additional pews further back in the nave.

Concrete: Inquiries have been made regarding Musselman and Hall concrete repairs but have not had a response. David Ross, who was involved with the repairs of the north wall of the nave, will personally walk the areas of concern on campus and make suggestions in the next week or two.

Parking Lot: Wear of the asphalt in the parking lot may need to be addressed by sections to reduce cost of repairs and maintenance rather than completing all at once. Bids will be obtained for section maintenance vs. one large project.

Two motions were presented by Michael Thomas. These motions were provided in the vestry packet for review prior to the meeting.

#### WiFi Assisted Listening Package:

Michael Thomas moved: On the recommendation of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Finance Committee, I move that we accept a bid from Progressive Electronics and allocate up to \$2500 to install WiFi Assisted Listening equipment to our current sound system. The funds will come from the Grace Fund for Property. This motion was seconded by Ken Stewart.

Discussion points: Adding this will allow anyone with Bluetooth technology in their hearing aids, or other listening devices, to hear better in the Nave. A question about access for non-Bluetooth compatible devices was raised. Most devices are now being designed for Bluetooth but not all wearers have this now. There are ear pieces that can be used with a phone to act as a Bluetooth receiver and an app available for smartphones without Bluetooth capability. Is that something to provide in the future for those without Bluetooth hearing aids? A handout could be provided for those who need help connecting to the system. The bid for this purchase indicates, "the server will provide the program audio/wi-fi to anyone using their own mobile device with the 'Listen Everywhere' free app installed. Once a parishioner has installed the app connected to the proper wi-fi network, they can listen to audio via normal headphones of their choice or via Bluetooth if their hearing aids or implants are so equipped." This equipment would be important if audited for accessibility.

The vote was called and the motion carried.

#### Playground Camera and Timed Lock:

Michael Thomas moved: On the recommendation of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Finance Committee, I move that we accept a bid from ACS Electronic Systems and allocate up to \$3100 to install a security camera and timed locks on the playground. The funds will come from the Grace Fund for Property. This motion was seconded by Bill Colvin.

Discussion points: A timed lock will allow us to make the playground accessible to the public during published times (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.). A security camera will tie into our current security system. Access to playground space would be beneficial to neighborhood families as well as prospective families of a pre-K program we have been considering. The playground surface is now complete and functional. Posted rules and notation about bathrooms not being accessible (unless during office hours) should be visible. Church insurance has indicated we are covered to provide this access to the playground. Risk management access with camera helps support our efforts to make the playground available. Camera will discourage inappropriate use of the playground. Camera presence should not imply we are monitoring actions and we do not want to be the 'supervisors' of the playground. Recording capability will allow us to review incidents. This recording feature ties in with our current system which does currently record. Questions about posted rules—such as adult supervision, adults being accompanied by a child. Concern about loitering (adults). Question about whether there are cameras on the parking lot.

The vote was called and the motion carried. There were no abstentions.

**Senior Warden Report** *presented by Candy McDowell*

Vestry Calls: There is still time to complete the calls and encourage photographs be submitted or taken at the church with our photographer. Two pages were passed around at the meeting as an example of what the page will look like once the directory is complete. A hard copy directory will be similar to past forms—spiral bound and photos will be integrated with contact information. There will be a vestry page that can be updated. There will be a parish life section with casual photos to be included as well. We will print our own directory and there will also be Realm access. The approximate cost of directory publication will be \$7 per directory.

**Vestry Liaison Reports**

**Social Outreach** *presented by Terri Curran via email on 5/26/2022*

1. Delivered 20 Mother’s Day Baskets to the residents at Sheffield Place along with 249 paper products to be used by the residents
2. The last week of Backsnack for this school year was the week of May 23rd. This semester we delivered over 1200 backsnacks. We will be delivering backsnacks for summer school students at Clardy and Gashland Elementary Schools. Special thanks to Ric Sweeting, Christina Wiksell, Marian Philip, and Carol Whitehead for making the program a success.
3. There are 225 onesies collected during the month of May for the Global Birthing Center in Haiti. Carol Whitehead’s sister in Iowa donated 100 of the total onesies.

**Children’s Formation** Dean Andy highlighted items about children’s formation:

Children’s Choir sang on May 15.

Linda Martin is leading a music workshop most of the summer and will resume with children’s choir rehearsals in the fall.

**Communications, Young Adult** (Refer to Canon Ryan’s earlier report.)

No additional reports for:

**Community Engagement**

**Safety/Security**

**Old Business**

DEI (Diversity, Equality, Inclusion) project assigned to Brittany. An examination of the history of the cathedral and honest look at where we are today. She will provide a report to the vestry once it is complete. The murals in the Common Room will be addressed within that report with recommendations for removal and preservation. The murals will not be destroyed. Joe Rogers (Nelson Atkins Museum) will examine the murals to determine if there is way for them to be removed and preserved intact. A time of education and reflection about the messages they convey will be planned prior to any action being taken. The Dean’s Conference addressed problematic images in sacred spaces and the charge has been

to educate about the images and reflect on why these are problematic in a sacred space where the gospel is preached.

### **New Business**

#### Vestry meeting planning:

Vestry usually does not meet in either June or July. After discussion, it was determined the **next Regular Vestry Meeting will be July 28, at 5:30 p.m.** in person. Zoom will still be an option-- making it a hybrid format. There will be no vestry meeting in June.

As a note, the Finance Committee usually does not meet in June and August, but will meet in July.

Although vestry will not meet in June, the Executive Committee will still meet on June 13.

**Ken Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting. Michael Thomas seconded and the motion passed with a majority vote.** A closing prayer was led by Dean Andy.

#### CDC Guidelines for indoor masking:

Julie Toma continues to monitor CDC recommendations and regional reports of infection rates, hospitalizations and deaths related to illness so we can adjust current mask requirements and best practices. We are currently mask optional, but will adjust when/if needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Blanco Johnson, Clerk