

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, July 28, 2022

Approved at the August 25, 2022 Vestry meeting

Vestry Members and Leadership Present In-Person: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse (Dean), Michael Thomas (Jr. Warden), Steve Moore (Chancellor), Pat Decker, Bill Colvin, Sharon Cheers, Kay Woolley

Via teleconference: Candy McDowell (Sr. Warden), David Barker (Treasurer), Ken Stewart, Ron Michka, Paula Livingston-Lewis, Amy Cornwell, Nick Smith, Valerie Johnson (Clerk)

Absent: The Rev. Canon Ryan Wiksell (Associate)

Others Present: None

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 May 26, 2022, regular Vestry minutes for approval. These minutes were distributed with the Vestry Packet for review prior to the meeting.

Kay Woolley moved to accept the minutes as presented and was seconded by Ken Stewart. The motion passed without further discussion.

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

Convention Delegates: The list of delegates for the Diocesan Convention 2022 in November includes: Chris Morrison, Christine Morrison, Ric Sweeting, Joyce Morrow, Sara Copeland, Janet Sweeting, Dani Montoya, Nick Smith with Kim Smith as alternate. These individuals will also serve on the Deanery Council and are able to attend those meetings.

Sharon Cheers moved to accept the slate of delegates and was seconded by Kay Woolley. The motion passed without further discussion.

(Ken Stewart departed meeting at this time.)

Strategic Planning Committee (SPC): The Stakeholders' Survey is finalized and ready to be distributed to the parish by the end of next week. Once results of the survey are obtained, the process will move toward gathering focus groups. Retreats for the committee will review all findings (survey and focus groups) and prepare a presentation that will be delivered to the vestry.

Deacon: The Bishop and Archdeacon anticipate a female deacon will be with GHTC in October 2022. Once all steps have been completed, there will be a formal announcement. Her ordination will take place in October and GHTC members will have the opportunity to attend that service.

Fall 2022 Planning: GHTC staff will meet next week to plan calendar and fall 2022 events. Ryan will be teaching Sunday mornings in August. The brochure for the William Jewell series will be available and this

program begins in September on Wednesday evenings (6:30-7:45 p.m.) with Ryan teaching. Croquet Tournament and a Ministry Fair still needs to be considered for the calendar.

Choir Update: (This topic addressed following the Stewardship Report but inserted under this report) In an earlier communication with the parish, Dean Andy described the plan for the choir to return to the loft during worship service. However, in consultation with Dr. Paul Meier (Music Director), and while reviewing the current increase in community virus spread, it was determined the choir will remain near the font, for now, to allow adequate spacing and other precautions to be taken.

Also, for everyone in the congregation masks are recommended/encouraged but not required. Signs on the entrances reflect this practice.

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

Canon Ryan is away currently. He is finalizing plans for Children's Formation. Sunday mornings will hold children's formation and children's choir during separate times rather than being alternated with formation time.

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:

At the August Vestry meeting, Dave will present the findings of a regression analysis. This analysis utilizes 'real' results and projects future based upon past history.

Pledges and plate offerings were ahead of budget. The plate offerings were up because of a one-time \$10k donation/gift. Recurring bequests of \$200k from the Kemper trust came in. Endowment and Operating is low since we took 4% (rather than 5%) from the endowment. Utilities were down but that will increase as usage increases. The Parish Life line reflects parish picnic, coffee hours and breakfast events.

Year-to-Date: The first half of the year indicates the larger overview of how we are doing so far. Pledge and plate are ahead of budget. Endowment to Operating is down a bit.

Sharon Cheers inquired about our current financial status in light of inflation and whether there should be concern about moving forward. Do we need to adjust budget or spending? Dave indicated in the fall, the Budget Committee will need to consider increases in utilities, cost of living, and other expenses.

Ron Michka mentioned Budget Contingency Planning had been implemented, another time, in order to identify ways to increase revenue to offset inflation and expenses. For example, increased user fees for parking can bring in additional revenue that can offset spending without changing the budget.

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

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

Stewardship Report *presented by Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair*

No additional pledges have been received from last report, which did have us above budget. We should begin planning for this year and consider a Stewardship Luncheon for the fall 2022 calendar. Help is needed for stewardship planning.

Junior Warden Report *presented by Michael Thomas*

The report of the Buildings and Grounds Committee (BGC) was included with the vestry packet prior to the meeting. The report and highlights at the meeting are included here:

Bluetooth hearing device software: The software to enable Bluetooth capabilities for the sound system in the Nave has been installed and is now compatible with our system. Information was provided in the bulletin about 'how to' obtain the application on mobile devices so the system can be accessed. However, instructions will still need to be printed and posted so potential users will know to obtain the app for this feature and access the technology.

Playground: A security camera and the automatic lock for the playground is now on order from the vendor. We expect delivery and installation in late August.

Reredos: No bid was forthcoming from Joe Rogers (of Nelson-Atkins Museum) on the repair of the reredos in the courtyard between the Cathedral and the Diocesan Center. Joe's recommendation was we retain the failing pieces and replace by adhering them to the structure. An awning could be purchased or manufactured to protect the reredos from the elements. The BGC agreed and decided we would complete those repairs ourselves.

Walkways on Campus: A bid from David Ross for the repairs of selected sections of the walkways was obtained. The bid totaled \$8842 and included one 10'x10' section and a step (entrance to courtyard near the memorial garden), a 13'by10' section including a step (near breezeway entrance), and five 5'x5' sections of the sidewalk in high traffic areas to eliminate potential tripping hazards. The bid suggested using crushed granite for durability rather than the limestone used in the past. This bid from David Ross was unanimously approved by BGC and the recommendation was referred to Finance Committee. The Finance Committee accepted the recommendation and funds will come from the Property Fund as a repair expense on existing facilities.

Safety and Security: At the BGC meeting, Sharon Cheers had provided an extensive review of the work of the church Safety Committee. This included information on the personnel from the various law enforcement agencies available to assist the Cathedral with security needs on campus. Two important recommendations came out of this report: 1) security is not provided for groups of less than 100 attendees. Suggested signage informing visitors of "parking at own risk" should be posted; 2) The Safety Committee suggested a representative from GHTC be on site during activities to assist visitors with questions/help while using our facilities. Sextons are performing other duties, and are not security, nor docents, greeters, hospitality, etc. when groups/visitors are on the campus.

Common Room Murals: Joe Rogers of the Nelson Atkins Museum Conservation Department submitted a bid that would carefully remove, roll and store the paintings currently affixed to the walls in the Common Room. The bid was for an amount of \$26,000. There was considerable discussion about why and how necessary it is to remove the canvases. Without reference to the various sensitivities of the subject matter, two pieces of information informed their discussion: 1) the historic context of the work is considered “problematic” by the members of Diocesan Council (reported by Ric Sweeting) and Cathedral staff; 2) Decades ago, several other paintings were removed and now hang on pipes in the undercroft. The BGC does not want to take on this expense for the described removal of murals within the bid but would be willing to have them photographed, removed by us, and stored properly.

The BGC also endorsed the idea of educational exhibits to discuss the context and history both of the works and what they portray. The BGC decided to defer any recommendations until a plan is prepared for how to use the space in the Common Room.

Kneelers: There continues to be very little feedback (or apparent interest) in the trial project to separate kneelers from the pews. It was decided that we would leave the kneelers that are unattached as they are, but not proceed with any additional modifications. (See previous minutes for more details regarding this trial project.)

Senior Warden Report *presented by Dean Keyse for Candy McDowell*

Pre-K Pathways: The consultant, Jill Meriweather, has completed the report and is ready to make the 90-minute presentation. The presentation will be scheduled for late August or September, depending on availability of key persons and as many Vestry members as possible.

In the meantime, we are getting back in touch with Clockwork Architecture and Design to move forward with doing Phase I of the proposal to design 2 pre-K classrooms. (\$2500 was approved by the Vestry at the February meeting.)

It is hoped to have preliminary construction figures available by early fall for input for the Strategic Planning process.

Photo Directory: Photos have been uploaded to Realm. Anyone interested in seeing their photo(s) can check out Realm. Four Vestry members have not submitted photos and are asked to contact Julie ASAP about submitting their own photo or having someone at the Cathedral take a photo.

The 2022 Directory will be distributed in a pocket folder coordinated with the bound directory. The bound Membership Directory will be in the righthand pocket and the current Staff and Vestry pages will be in the lefthand pocket. Annually, in February, the Vestry page will be updated to include the new class of Vestry members. The Staff pages will be updated as needed. We hope to have the directories ready for distribution in the early Fall.

Vestry Calls: The next round of calls is coming up. Lists are scheduled to be distributed on August 19th.

A suggested script will be distributed with each call list. The main topic for this round of calls is the Cathedral’s fall programming. There may also be information about distribution of the Directories. Labor Day Weekend is the target date for completion of calls. Any suggestions by the vestry regarding the calling process should be directed toward Candy McDowell.

Vestry Liaison Reports

Social Outreach

Sharon Cheers highlighted the donated school supplies will be blessed at the August 7th worship service because they will be delivered on August 8th. Missouri has tax free weekend August 5-7th to assist buying supplies. Currently we have just under 800 supplies collected so far.

Dean Andy and Terri Curran have spoken about restructuring the Social Outreach Committee to include monthly meetings so minutes can be submitted to vestry per our bylaws.

Social Action reported by Pat Decker

Kari O'Rourke working on a traveling exhibit about Turkey and genocide. Considering three locations on 3 different dates in September 2022: Jewish Community Center, GHTC and Leawood United Methodist Church.

Safety/Security (See Jr. Warden's Report above)

No further reports from:

Children's, Communications, Young Adult, Community Engagement

Old Business

None

New Business

Kay Woolley inquired about Holy Hands ministry (coffee hour hosted by GHTC members) returning eventually. Discussion points included: safe preparation of food by a store (as currently provided) rather than individuals to reduce virus transmission and accommodation of special diets. Dean Andy emphasized there is a desire to bring Holy Hands ministry back to GHTC.

Vestry meeting planning:

Our next Vestry meeting is to be held on **Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. in a hybrid format.**

Kay Woolley moved to adjourn the meeting. Pat Decker seconded and the motion passed with a majority vote. A closing prayer was led by Dean Andy.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Blanco Johnson, Clerk