

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, March 16, 2023

Approved at the April 20, 2023 Vestry meeting

Vestry Members and Leadership Present In-Person: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse (Dean), Candy McDowell (Sr. Warden), Sharon Cheers, Steve Moore (Chancellor) Valerie Johnson (Clerk); Via teleconference: Julie Brogno, Ron Michka, Paula Livingston-Lewis, Blain Lagergren, Mathias Nichols, The Rev. Barbara Wegener (Deacon), David Barker (Treasurer)

Absent: Michael Thomas (Jr. Warden), Kay Woolley, Sara Copeland, Pat Decker,

Others Present: Robin Rusconi

The meeting was held in hybrid format (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 January 29th post-annual Vestry meeting minutes and the February 23, 2023, regular Vestry minutes. Both were distributed in the March Vestry Packet. Sharon Cheers moved to accept the January 29, 2023, minutes and was seconded by Paula Livingston-Lewis. The motion passed without discussion.

One correction to the February minutes was submitted via email by Sharon Cheers prior to the meeting. Sharon Cheers moved to accept the February 23, 2023, minutes as edited, and was seconded by Paula Livingston-Lewis. The motion passed without discussion.

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

Affirmation of Ordination The vestry in September 2022 reaffirmed Robin Rusconi as a candidate to the diaconate. The Vestry was now requested to affirm ordination to the diaconate, which takes place at GHTC June 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. The Letter of Affirmation to the Bishop was read aloud to the Vestry.

Candy McDowell moved to affirm Robin Rusconi's ordination to the diaconate, and was seconded by Paula Livingston-Lewis. The motion passed. Signatures will be obtained by Vestry members participating remotely.

Parochial Report The 2022 Parochial Report will be emailed to Vestry so there will be time for review and make recommendations. Dean Andy will ask for affirmation emails in order to formally approve the report.

Budget as Mission The first conversation of a mission-based budget concept was introduced as the vestry strives to be a part of the budgeting process. Costs are seen as investment that leads to mission rather than a conventional budget which focuses on expenses. It is proposed to begin considering budget much earlier than we have been doing in the past. In this way, the vestry gives a charge to the Budget Committee and the Budget Committee charges the Financial Committee.

Discussion points: The idea to think about the mission first as opposed to the financials. Agreed vestry should set the process early on. In the process, perhaps vestry speaks with the ministry leaders about mission and budget to support the mission. Some vestry members could/should serve on the Budget Committee.

Audit Report The vestry received a copy of the Audit Report in the February Vestry Packet. Richard (former Finance Administrator for GHTC) oversaw this period of audit reporting. Dave Barker suggested considering a new audit company due to the cost and lack of timeliness of the report. The Financial Committee recommended the vestry approve this submitted report from 2021.

Sharon Cheers moved to accept the Audit Report dated 2021. This was seconded by Blain Lagergren. The motion passed with one opposed.

Financial Report presented by David Barker, Treasurer

The February Financial Report and statements were included in the March Vestry Packet prior to this meeting. Dave Barker suggested the monthly 'standard' of income (based upon \$500,000 divided by 12 months) be \$41,600.00). This will reflect our monthly Budget numbers through the year. In the report Dave Barker (Treasurer) highlighted:

February report Year to Date appears better than Month to Date. Large donations (nonrecurring) have gone into the Plate line but Dave suggested they be reflected in the Nonrecurring line. Administration and General reflects the Actual is higher than Budgeted due to a service contract 'buy out' to get into a more economical service contract that would have a savings realized in the long term. Utility Actual is slightly higher than Budget. Facility includes any repairs, which recently required a main water shut off valve replacement in Founders' Hall.

Discussion points: Service agreements are available for viewing to anyone. GHTC has two UMB and Commerce investment managers. Dave will be speaking to UMB as there was concern about the Silicon Valley bank collapse and the security of GHTC account(s).

Blain Lagergren moved to accept the Financial Report as presented. It was seconded by Sharon Cheers and passed without further discussion.

Stewardship Report presented by Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair

There was no quarterly pledge report at the time of this meeting. Pledges continue to come in. Dean Andy told the Finance Committee a letter will be sent out in a couple of weeks. We will not likely meet the 2023 goal of \$500,000 in pledges.

Junior Warden Report presented by Sharon Cheers for Michael Thomas

The hot water heater in the Altar Guild sacristy was replaced. Bids are still being gathered for parking lot repairs and striping. Angela Graham recommends this be completed every three years as a parking lot maintenance effort. The Memorial Garden is being discussed as space for names is becoming limited in the current method. There may be an idea to list names on a plaque inside the tower.

Common Room committee for renovation has a working budget of \$26,000. Books on the shelves are being removed/given away through March 31.

Security by Jackson County Sheriff's Department is provided on Sundays and at special events. Concern was raised to the committee about individuals who wander the church rather than attend services; therefore, a request was made by Sharon to the Department, to provide more visible presence by walking the campus in addition to currently watching the parking lot area. The locked glass doors between Haden Hall and the church area are being discussed regarding convenience on Sundays for those going into Haden Hall. Currently, all entrances are to be made through the courtyard.

Dean Andy will check on the parking lot work as it is believed a bid may have already been approved.

Senior Warden Report presented by Candy McDowell

Vestry calls are planned for August 11th through the end of August. Topics may include Formation plans, Ministry Fair and Croquet event. In November, calls will begin around the 10th and address Advent and Christmas, Vestry elections and Twelfth Night event.

The Vestry Covenant needs to be signed by each member and can be completed by emailing a signed copy to Julie.

Candy also shared some take-aways from Episcopal Parish Network conference in Jacksonville, FL recently. Many attendees expressed challenges with returning members to in-person services and volunteering. For many, virtual services have grown some parishes. An idea to provide Eucharist host and wine to those unable to attend service prior to virtual service participation was shared.

Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports

Social Outreach *presented by Paula Livingston-Lewis*

Dean Andy shared that the Social Outreach Committee is currently considering where to direct a portion of the upcoming Easter Offering.

Community Engagement, Safety/Security; Social Action; Children's; Communications; Young Adults

Ron Michka continues to host the Tuesday Morning Conversation online. The Downtown Council discusses issues specific to our area such as: Beehive (shares location of Nourish KC), the green space between Immaculate Conception and GHTC; Hope Faith Lodge (homeless facility near Nourish KC). He suggested GHTC have a more visible presence around downtown and continue to be a part of the conversations taking place in person and on social media about our neighborhood.

Old Business

An April 14, 2023 Fundraising event for Pete's Garden is taking place from 6-8 p.m. It will be a wine tasting with two types of tickets available. There will be food provided by Pete's Garden. Ticket sales will occur through EventBrite.

The next Vestry Meeting will be Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room and teleconference.

New Business

None

Candy McDowell moved to adjourn the meeting. Ron Michka seconded and the motion passed.

A closing prayer was led by Dean Andy. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Blanco Johnson, Clerk