

## Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

### Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, October 26, 2023

*Approved at the November 28, 2023 Vestry meeting*

**Vestry Members and Leadership Present** In-Person: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse (Dean), Candy McDowell (Sr. Warden), Ron Michka, Sharon Cheers, Valerie Johnson (Clerk); Via teleconference: Pat Decker, Blain Lagergren, Sara Copeland, Julie Brogno, Paula Livingston-Lewis, David Barker (Treasurer); **Absent:** Michael Thomas (Jr. Warden), Kay Woolley, Mathias Nichols, Steve Moore (Chancellor) **Others Present:** None

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 September 28, 2023, regular Vestry minutes that were distributed in the October Vestry Packet. Ron Michka moved to accept the September 28, 2023, minutes and was seconded by Paula Livingston-Lewis. The motion passed after one editing suggestion.

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

Upcoming events: Fall Festival is October 29; All Saints' Sunday and an afternoon Hymn Sing will be on November 5; Kirkin' o' the Tartan is November 12. Kirkin' KC St. Andrew's Pipes and Drums notified Dr. Paul Meier of the need to begin charging \$2,000 for the Kirkin' o' the Tartan Sunday music. They will accept \$1,000 this year because of late notice and the money will be forwarded through a music budget item. We will need to determine plans for future participation and funding.

Diocesan Convention is taking place the same weekend as Kirkin' o' the Tartan—Friday through Sunday. The Stewardship Luncheon will also be held on November 12. Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 23) will have a 10 a.m. service. A Celebration of Life service for Al Mauro, former Sr. Warden at GHTC, will be held at the Deramus Education Center in the KC Zoo on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m. This information will be distributed to GHTC members.

Personnel updates: Clare Stern-Burbano has been hired as full-time Director of Children's Formation overseeing children, youth, and college ministries. The Rev. W. James Yazell (pronounced yay'-zel) will begin in the office the week after Thanksgiving and his first Sunday with us will be December 3. (Note: Fr. James and his wife, Kelsey, will be moving here from Shreveport, Louisiana, where James has been the rector of St. James Episcopal Church. This information was shared with GHTC in an email on October 13.)

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

Dave Barker, Treasurer requested financial Reports from May, June, and July be tabled, again, until the November Vestry meeting since discrepancies are still being addressed regarding an interfund transfer. Dave recommended we consider September financials for approval and he highlighted: Plate offerings were down in September; YTD is ahead of projections; salary appears higher due to 3 paydays in September.

Sharon Cheers moved to accept the September financial report while continuing to table May, June, July financial reports; seconded by Julie Brogno. Motion passed after discussion.

Discussion points: Users Fees appear to be down and an explanation was requested since we do have several outside groups using our campus. Are there invoices paid before or after events and where would those invoiced/paid amounts be found in reports? July User Fees MTD were approximately \$5,000. YTD numbers are a better indicator of our financial health. As numbers are being summarized, we will be informed of Users Fees, which will also be helpful to the budgeting process for 2024. Downtown areas are increasing rents and we should consider Users Fees accordingly.

**Stewardship Report** *presented for Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair by The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse*

22 Pledges for 2024 have been received totaling \$72,747. Postcards will be mailed next week prior to the Stewardship Luncheon, which will be held on November 12, 2023.

**Junior Warden Report** *presented for Michael Thomas by The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse*

Buildings and Grounds did not meet in October and will meet in November. Murals in the Common Room have been removed, rolled, and wrapped for storage in protective tubes. The walls have been repaired and painted. The committee will continue to plan next steps and no work will proceed until after the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Presiding Bishop's visit and ordinations.

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

Vestry Nomination Process: One or two at-large members are needed to serve on the Nominating Committee. Blain Lagergren, Michael Thomas, and Mathias Nichols will serve as the vestry members on the Nominating Committee. Information regarding nominations for vestry candidates will be in the Angelus and parish communications.

Vestry Calls: Julie Toma will be sending emails to vestry members on November 10, with information about the next round of calls to be placed to parishioners. Members of vestry should notify Julie Toma if they would like to call their same list from the previous contacting by November 6.

Clergy Discretionary Fund (CDF): The balance sheet indicates a September amount of \$250 was transferred from the plate to the CDF as well as a donation of \$1000. A portion of the money collected for clergy officiating at funerals, weddings, etc. is designated for CDF use. Because there is a deficit shown on financial reports for CDF and clergy have been unable to offer assistance this past month, Candy proposed considering: 1) leaving as is and discontinue assistance for remaining 2023; 2) continue spending from the CDF—increasing the deficit; 3) zero out the line and insert funds so more funds can be granted throughout 2023.

Discussion points: Current asks have been \$1500-3500 per month. The largest requests have been for utilities and rent. Because we are the only resource in the area assisting with these areas, we tend to get frequent requests while other churches may be more food-focused. In 2022, through the CDF, 49 grants at approximately \$12,827 were given. In 2023 YTD, there have been 40 grants at approximately \$17,207. This CDF is shared by all clergy and financial communications will be improved to safeguard the balance of the account. It is also understood that fund requests cannot be fulfilled at 100%. The CDF was taken advantage of by a scam connected to landlord/rent assistance. How can we safeguard the CDF in the future? It was recommended we reconnect with the KC Library to help minimize exhaustive asks through their system of Street Sheets. Dean Andy will be requesting budget support for the CDF at \$1500 per month so it can be discussed. Canonically, funding for a CDF can be accomplished through a transaction within the budget or a one-time designated plate collection per month. Donors can always direct a personal offering to the CDF. The clergy will need to determine what types of grants will be considered in the future. Gift cards for gas/fuel are no longer provided. It was recommended we consider parishioners' needs and increase their awareness that CDF is available to them as well.

**Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports**

**Social Outreach**, *Paula Livingston-Lewis*

GHTC delivered 480 rolls of toilet paper to Shelter KC. Shelter KC offers freedom and hope to homeless men and women in Kansas City. A non-profit organization with more than 70 years of service. Shelter KC empowers the poor and homeless through emergency shelter, daily meals, case management, and recovery programs. The September Diaper Drive collected 3,253 diapers to be donated to Happy Bottoms, the KC Diaper Bank. The total number of diapers donated in 2023 was 9055—an increase from 7575 donated diapers in 2022. This month (October) we are collecting food for “Trick or Treat so Others can Eat” which will be donated to a local food pantry.

The Free Store which provides winter clothes to those less fortunate will be Saturday, January 13th. This is a collaboration between Saint Andrews, Saint Augustine, Saint Paul's and the Cathedral, with folks from Saint Andrews coordinating the effort. The Cathedral has been asked to host the luncheon and donate 100 pairs of winter boots. Dave and Suzanne Johnson of Chicago, recently were in town and donated 6 bags of new men's winter coats, gloves, socks, and hats to be donated to Free Store. The Backsnack program just started up for the 2023-2024 school year. Currently we will be delivering Backsnacks to 2 schools in the Northland with a goal of including a school in Kansas City, Kansas. Ric Sweeting has agreed to oversee this program.

#### **Community Engagement, Ron Michka**

Tuesday morning Conversations still meet online. The Downtown Council meets every 2 months and Ron will attend the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Downtowners is meeting November 8, and continues to discuss how properties are being used in the downtown area. The Downtown Neighborhood Association is another group we should be paying attention to for community information. The KC Library is a great partner for us and we can secure a part-time staff person to help our efforts through Vista/AmeriCorps. In support of Community Engagement of the Strategic Plan, Ron recommended budgeting for future events described in the document presented by the Strategic Planning Committee.

#### **Safety/Security, Sharon Cheers**

Sharon encouraged vestry members to follow the link called, *Safety in Our Churches*. It was provided through EPN digital workshop on Safety/Security. Vestry and staff should view the recording. Staff shortages from the KCPD remain but the Downtown Security remains our 'go to' for support. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is undergoing construction.

**Children's Formation; Communications; Young Adults** No reports

**Old Business** None

#### **New Business**

Dean Andy shared that in January 2024 he is meeting with Fr. Paul Turner of Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, the Roman Catholic Bishop, and our Bishop Provisional Diane to discuss ways to join efforts.

The Budget Committee will be meeting on Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Common Room in hybrid teleconferencing. Anyone is invited to attend.

On December 10, at 9:15 a.m. and following the 10:30 a.m. service, there will be a "Be Smart" presentation. This is a gun safety awareness program offered throughout the diocese led by Tara Bennett and Lenette Johnson, members of GHTC, and the Committee for Peace and Justice.

Prayers of the People each week encourages good stewardship of our environment. Are we doing everything we can to reduce landfill by recycling whenever possible and considering washing dishes vs. plastics/paper?

The next Vestry Meeting will be Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room and teleconference due to the Thanksgiving holiday on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and the need to address the budget. Vestry members were also asked to consider moving the December meeting, currently scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 28, to either Thursday, Dec. 21 or Tuesday, Dec. 19.

**Candy McDowell moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Sharon Cheers. The motion passed.**

A closing prayer was led by Dean Andy. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Blanco Johnson, Clerk