

# Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

## Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, February 26, 2026

*Approved at the March 26, 2026 Vestry meeting*

### **Vestry Members and Leadership Present**

In-Person: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse (Dean), The Rev. Canon W. James Yazell (Canon Priest), Steve Moore (Sr. Warden), Nigel Jones (Jr. Warden), Colin Chambers (Clerk), Chip Buckner (Treasurer), Julie Brogno, Pat Decker, Blain Lagergren, Christine Morrison, Charles Shipley, Janet Sweeting

Via teleconference (Zoom): The Rev. Barbara Wegener (Deacon), Bill Boyd, Steve King, Mathias Nichols

Absent: The Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano (Associate Priest)

Others Present:

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**

Blain Lagergren presented the January regular Vestry minutes which were distributed in the February Vestry Packet. Julie Brogno moved to accept the meeting minutes and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed without further discussion. The Vestry thanked Blain for his 2 years of service as Vestry Clerk.

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

The Vestry Retreat is Saturday, February 28. Dean Andy briefly discussed the Stone Strategies marketing and events proposal in preparation for the upcoming retreat. Members were asked to review the agenda, including the proposal, and come prepared with questions and feedback. Members of the Vestry were also asked to review the Vestry Covenant prior to the retreat. Following discussion and adoption, all members will be asked to sign.

EPN is next week in Charlotte Monday through Friday. Dean Andy, Fr. James, Julie Toma, Steve Moore, and Colin Chambers will attend.

Zaheer Popo has resigned and Dean Andy accepted his resignation and wished him well. The search committee will reconvene at some point after Easter to find a replacement. Lucas Fletcher has stated that none of the music plans for Lent or Easter will be impacted.

### **Whom Should We Thank?**

Jeff Johnson and Holly Campbell - Leading the Mardi Gras dinner

David and Diane Barker - Hosting the Valentine's Brunch

**Canon's Report**, presented by *The Rev. Canon W. James Yazell*

Sunday Formation continues. Fr. James reported that we will continue to work through the whole Book of Common Prayer. The Rule of Life workshop was Ash Wednesday and it was well attended. Lenten programming began yesterday, and there was good energy in a full room, despite the solemn topic.

There was strong attendance at Ash Wednesday services, including morning, noon and evening.

**Deacon's Report**, presented by *The Rev. Barbara Wegener*

Deacon Barbara reported that she and Deacons Robin Rusconi and Jen Sackhoff sent a letter to the Diocese expressing concern regarding recent events in the United States. She noted St. Anne's future affiliation with *Abide in Love*, which supports immigrants in detention centers. Volunteers are requested for app-based pen pals. Deacon Barbara will continue to keep the Vestry informed of these and other opportunities. Deacon Barbara also discussed a letter issued by Bishop Amy regarding current events. It can be found on the Diocese Facebook page. A Holy Week prayer service is scheduled at St. Paul's. Deacon Barbara will participate in the planning meeting and share details as they develop.

Barbara will work with Deacon Richard Liantonio over the next six months to share deacon responsibilities. Feedback was solicited, as he will be evaluated on a number of different criteria. The Diaconate Ordination went well, especially given the power outage earlier in the day.

**Financial Report** presented by *Chip Buckner, Treasurer*

Chip reported that endowment funds increased from approximately \$15.76 million at the end of 2023 to \$18.12 million at the end of 2025, despite planned draws of 4.5% in 2024 and 5% in 2025. Adjusted for inflation, the Cathedral's real wealth has increased. Dean Andy noted that Cathedral evaluates on a regular basis if the full 5.5% draw that was approved is needed. In January and February 2026, only 5% was used.

Pledges and plate offerings are lower than budgeted and lower than the prior year. Discrepancies were noted in December financial reporting, particularly related to interfund transfers and endowment allocations.

Julie Brogno pointed out that we should thank Chip for his persistence in chasing the various accounts and ensuring accuracy.

Blain Lagergren moved to defer acceptance of the December Financial Report, pending additional reconciliation. The motion was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed without further discussion.

Blain Lagergren moved to accept the January Financial Report and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed without further discussion.

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

The Cathedral is approximately 40 pledges below previous targets; however, the average pledge amount remains higher than in prior years. A letter has gone out to members who have not yet renewed their pledge. Historically, pledges continue to come in during the Spring.

**Junior Warden's Report**, presented by *Nigel Jones*

There was an electricity outage on Friday, February 20, 2026 that shut down all systems on the campus. Julie Toma has secured an extra-strong surge protector for the audio-visual system.

Nigel reported HVAC system concerns. Replacement of control components is estimated at approximately \$100,000, with broader system needs potentially ranging from \$100,000–\$150,000. He will consult with Design Mechanical and explore engaging a Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) engineering firm for a strategic assessment to prevent unnecessary rework connected to future organ and Nave HVAC work.

**Senior Warden Report, presented by Steve Moore**

Dean Andy is going on Sabbatical, as agreed to in his Letter of Agreement. Steve suggested that the Vestry discuss contributing funds to support the sabbatical. The Vestry went into Executive Session at 6:23 p.m.. Executive Session concluded at 6:53 p.m.

Steve Moore moved to approve funds to support Dean Andy's sabbatical, which will be 12 weeks beginning May 15, 2026. The motion provides additional support of up to \$10,000 Long Term Trinity Fund for Ministry and up to \$6,000 from the Short Term New Ministry Initiative. Blain Lagergren seconded. On behalf of the Vestry, Julie Brogno requested that upon return from sabbatical, Dean Andy present activities and impact. Steve Moore also stated that this was in recognition of the Dean's leadership over the past seven years and the Vestry's desire to support his continued education and a long-awaited rest. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

**Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports**

**Buildings & Grounds, Nigel Jones, Charles Shipley, Steve King, Mathias Nichols**

**Finance, Nigel Jones, Steve Moore, Bill Boyd**

Finance Committee membership will be reviewed to ensure all listed members remain active and willing to serve.

**Social Action & Outreach, Colin Chambers, Christine Morrison, The Rev. Barbara Wegener**

**Social Events, Julie Brogno, Colin Chambers, Pat Decker**

**Newcomers, Julie Brogno, Steve King, The Rev. James Yazell, Beth Keyse**

**Children & Youth, Blain Lagergren, Mathias Nichols**

**Stewardship, Steve Moore, Blain Lagergren, Mathias Nichols**

**Community Engagement, Christine Morrison, The Rev. Barbara Wegener**

**Budget, Bill Boyd (Chair), Nigel Jones, Pat Decker, Steve Moore**

**Additional Discussion**

**Old Business**

None

## **New Business**

Copies of the Parochial Report were distributed and will be reviewed at the Vestry Retreat. Vestry members were requested to review the report prior to the retreat and bring any questions.

The Vestry Retreat will be Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. and the next Vestry meeting will be Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room and via teleconference.

Blain Lagergren moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed.

The meeting was closed with the saying of the Grace. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colin Chambers, Clerk