

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, April 30, 2026

Approved at the May 28, 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), Steve Moore (Sr. Warden), Nigel Jones (Jr. Warden), Chip Buckner (Treasurer), Julie Brogno, Christine Morrison, Charles Shipley, Janet Sweeting

Via teleconference (Zoom): The Rev. Barbara Wegener (Deacon), Colin Chambers (Clerk), Pat Decker, Blain Lagergren, Mathias Nichols

Absent: The Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano (Associate Priest), The Rev. Dr. Richard Liantonio (Deacon), Bill Boyd, Steve King

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

Colin Chambers presented the March regular Vestry minutes which were distributed in the April Vestry Packet. Charles Shipley moved to accept the meeting minutes and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed without further discussion.

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

Dean Andy reported on his attendance at the North American Deans' Conference in San Diego, held at St. Paul's Cathedral. He noted the Cathedral has been significantly renovated since his visit 21 years ago, with the carpet removed, a beautiful new floor installed, and chairs replacing pews, making the space highly versatile. Sessions from the conference were recorded and Dean Andy will share them with any Vestry members who have interest, noting that some content, particularly regarding a high-rise building project undertaken by one of the host cathedrals, may be especially relevant as the Cathedral contemplates future facilities planning. He described the trip as enjoyable overall.

Dean Andy noted that this is his last Vestry meeting before sabbatical. During his absence, Steve Moore will serve as chair of the Vestry. Dean Andy indicated he has scheduled meetings with Steve and Nigel, and separately with Fr. James, to ensure all matters are in order before his departure. The Vestry will decide at the May meeting whether to skip the June or July meeting, as is customary. Dean Andy noted he will likely miss two meetings if the Vestry takes one month off.

Dean Andy reported on the Stone Strategies marketing and event management proposal, which was introduced at the Vestry Retreat. He, Julie Toma and Holly Campbell met again with Stone Strategies to review the proposals in detail, and Dean Andy expressed strong support for moving forward. He noted that Stone Strategies offers a marketing-only option, as well as two tiers that include event management, and that he would like to pursue one of the event management options. He clarified that any new bookings could be routed to Holly, to Stone Strategies, or divided between them, and that Holly's role would not be diminished. The initial cost for the first three months, which are dedicated to setup and ramp-up, is \$1,500, with funds available in the Trinity Fund for New Ministry. Dean Andy indicated he will send the Vestry a summary of the cost structure before his sabbatical begins, so a decision can be made before he departs. No opposition to proceeding was voiced.

Dean Andy noted that Youth Sunday is this coming Sunday, May 3. The 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. services will be regular, while the 10:30 a.m. service will be led by the youth. For the first time since the Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano joined the Cathedral as priest, she will serve as presider for Youth Sunday, which Dean Andy noted he is looking forward to seeing.

Dean Andy also announced the Parish Picnic, scheduled for May 24, which falls on both Memorial Day weekend and Pentecost Sunday.

Whom Should We Thank?

Nathan - a visitor who attended church the Sunday prior to the Cathedral workday and then came back to volunteer his time on the Saturday grounds workday, working especially hard on the pine tree. Fr. James offered to text Nathan, as he had not included his address on his welcome card.

Kelsey Leftwich - for stepping up to lead formation class when Fr. James was ill, on behalf of Steve King who sent word of his thanks.

Dalia Toma - for her significant help with the Living Altar.

Elias Toma and his friend Uvee - for doing the bulk of the work stripping the Living Altar. *(Note: the friend's name was not known at the time of the meeting; separate thank-you cards to be sent.)*

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

Fr. James reported that the Eucharistic Practices workshop held the prior Sunday exceeded expectations, with approximately 15 attendees, including newcomers, compared to the 6 he had anticipated. The newcomer gathering is scheduled for May 17, and preparations are underway. The Episcopal Beliefs and Practices Sunday formation class is wrapping up over the next couple of weeks. Fr. James announced that Kelsey will lead a thematic Bible study during the formation hour in June while he is away for continuing education at Sewanee from June 4–26. Fr. James is also attending a diocesan clergy stewardship workshop in Clinton, Missouri on Tuesday, hosted in part by Amy, the same individual who participated in the Lenten Death and Dying program and who has expressed willingness to assist with future capital campaign efforts.

Associate's Report presented by The Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano

No Report

Deacon's Report, presented by The Rev. Barbara Wegener, The Rev. Dr. Richard Liantonio

Deacon Barbara reported that she has been working with Deacon Richard on his six-month integration period. During Dean Andy's sabbatical, Fr. James will take over that supervisory relationship. Deacon Richard will be invited to attend the next Vestry meeting. Deacon Barbara noted that she attended the recent Deanery meeting alongside Fr. James, Janet Sweeting, and others from the Cathedral.

Deacon Barbara noted that grocery cards for outreach have not yet been purchased but are on her near-term agenda. Deacon Richard will be leading the Prayers of the People and making announcements at the upcoming Sunday service as part of his growing integration into the liturgy. Deacon Barbara also noted that Prospect KC will cater the reception on Sunday, with a focus on pastries, and encouraged Vestry members to attend if able.

Regarding the Deanery meeting, Dean Andy summarized the key topics for the Vestry. Discussion centered on the 2026 FIFA World Cup and its implications for Kansas City and the Cathedral. Three main areas were raised: first, the possibility that visiting fans without accommodations may seek to camp in tent cities in the area, raising questions about how the Diocese and individual congregations should respond; second, the Diocese has developed unified promotional graphics and signage for use by area congregations, coordinated through staff, to avoid copyright issues with FIFA branding; and third, emergency preparedness, including the possibility of the Cathedral campus being designated as a resource in a mass casualty event, and a protocol through which the Diocese would contact rectors if a community prayer gathering were needed. Deacon Barbara added that alcohol will be available for all but one hour per day during the World Cup period, and that area hospitals are already preparing for an increase in incidents. She encouraged the Vestry to begin thinking about congregational preparedness. It was noted that Fan Fest begins June 11, with the first Kansas City match on June 16 and the last on July 11. The Vestry agreed to discuss a formal plan of action at the May meeting. It was also noted that the security officer the Cathedral currently employs on Sundays has been given a pay increase to keep him, as he was significantly below market rate; however, the Vestry flagged that during the World Cup, Kansas City and metro area police may be under standing orders prohibiting outside employment, which could affect the Cathedral's ability to hire off-duty officers during that period.

Financial Report, presented by Chip Buckner, Treasurer

Chip presented the March 2026 financial report. He noted that March pledge income was exceptional at \$138,000 — 25% higher than the same month last year — bringing year-to-date pledges to \$209,000. Chip observed that pledge timing this year versus last year appears to have shifted, with last year's large figures concentrated in February and March and this year's arriving largely in March, but that the totals are comparable. Plate offering also continued to be strong. Chip flagged that endowment operating income fell sharply in March because UMB Bank did not transfer the expected monthly distribution of approximately \$35,000; the funds remain in the account and the omission was an administrative error that has been addressed. Expenses were low and well-managed across the board, and Chip expressed genuine enthusiasm for the month's overall picture.

On the balance sheet, Chip noted that the property fund increased significantly in March as diocesan funds for the courtyard repairs were received. Outreach ministries made sizable disbursements, including to the Global Birthing Home and Nourish KC. Total assets fell approximately 4.3% over the course of March due to market conditions, though Chip noted the first two weeks of April were strong. Chip also reported that the Braum Alexander Music Fund, which is invested more aggressively than other assets, took a proportionally larger hit during March's market decline.

Chip reported a separate matter regarding the Braum Alexander Music Fund. He discovered that a non-employee, non-officer individual who holds signatory authority on that account wrote a check in the amount of \$450 from the fund for his personal estate planning purposes. Chip confirmed with the individual that the expenditure was deliberate, not a mistake. When asked whether it was appropriate, the individual maintained that it was. Chip acknowledged that he should have been aware of this person's signature authority and took personal

responsibility for the oversight, personally reimbursing the \$450 to the fund. Dean Andy and Lucas Fletcher, as trustees of the fund, are in the process of removing this individual's signature authority. The Vestry agreed this must be resolved immediately and before Dean Andy's departure. Dean Andy confirmed he will coordinate with staff to ensure the necessary paperwork is signed promptly.

Julie Brogno moved to accept the March Financial Report and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed without further discussion.

Stewardship Report, presented by Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair

Steve reported that the pledge campaign has now exceeded its goal. Total pledges received stand at \$473,281 against the \$465,000 target — approximately \$8,000 over goal. There are still 17 pledges from the prior year that have not yet been renewed, totaling just over \$26,000; if those come in, the campaign could reach \$500,000, which Steve noted would be unprecedented in the modern era. The campaign now includes 11 new pledges. Steve noted that visitors are becoming newcomers, and newcomers are making pledges, reflecting the results of the Cathedral's intentional outreach and formation efforts.

Junior Warden's Report, presented by Nigel Jones

Nigel reported that the HVAC controller parts remain on order and have not yet arrived. In the interim, Angie has been managing the system manually, monitoring the weather and adjusting settings remotely from her phone, and temperatures have been kept reasonably comfortable. Nigel noted that he does not have an estimated delivery date and will follow up.

Nigel reported on two recent grounds workdays. The Saturday workday was well attended, and additional work was done on Sunday as well. Most of the Living Altar plants have been transplanted into pots and urns around the campus, with a few remaining. Dead and dying plants were identified and removed; some appear to be suffering from age, and others - particularly the hollies and some junipers - are struggling with the hotter climate conditions the region has experienced in recent years. A stump remains in the Circle Drive near the diocesan offices and needs to be ground out. A landscape consultant from K-Squared, recommended by a parishioner, visited the campus and noted that three golden arborvitae near the Circle Drive south door are growing toward the light due to the shade of a large tree overhead. He recommended relocating them while they are young enough to survive transplanting. Nigel is obtaining a bid for that work. He noted that expenses have been minimal.

Regarding the organ, Nigel indicated that the Organ Committee continues to work with C.B. Fisk, gathering additional information about elements such as the blower room that will be needed as part of any installation. Nigel noted that a local contractor he encountered through other work expressed familiarity with similar projects. In response to a question from Colin Chambers about what is appropriate to communicate to parishioners, Nigel and Dean Andy agreed that the appropriate message is that the Cathedral has engaged consultants to review the organ, is convinced a new instrument will be needed, and is in the process of determining how to proceed. John Schaefer has been briefed by Lucas Fletcher directly, and Jan Craybell, the organist at the Kauffman Center, is fully supportive of the direction being considered.

Senior Warden Report, presented by Steve Moore

Steve had nothing to add beyond his stewardship report. He noted that he is looking forward to assuming his new duties as Vestry chair during Dean Andy's sabbatical, and expressed confidence in the team's support.

Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

Newcomers, *Julie Brogno, The Rev. James Yazell*

No Report

Children & Youth, *Blain Lagergren, Mathias Nichols, The Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano*

No Report

Stewardship, *Steve Moore, Blain Lagergren, Mathias Nichols, Pat Decker, Christine Morrison*

No Report

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

No Report

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

No Report

Additional Discussion

Old Business

Blain Lagergren raised the previously discussed idea of establishing a Vestry group text for official communication among members. Dean Andy acknowledged it had not yet been set up and noted it as an item to address.

New Business

The Vestry discussed World Cup preparedness and agreed to develop a formal plan of action at the May meeting, including consideration of security arrangements, potential hospitality responses, and use of the campus. The Vestry also noted the suggestion to share the KCUR Cup 2026 newsletter signup with parishioners through Cathedral communications as a resource for those wanting to stay informed.

The next Vestry meeting will be May 28th, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room and via teleconference.

Janet Sweeting moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Christine Morrison. The motion passed.

The meeting was closed with the saying of the Grace. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colin Chambers, Clerk