

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Tuesday, August 25th, 2026

Approved at the September 24th, 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), The Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano (Associate Priest), Steve Moore (Sr. Warden), Nigel Jones (Jr. Warden), Colin Chambers (Clerk), Bill Boyd, Julie Brogno, Christine Morrison, Charles Shipley

Via teleconference (Zoom): The Rev. Barbara Wegener (Deacon), Chip Buckner (Treasurer), Steve King, Blain Lagergren, Janet Sweeting

Absent: The Rev. Dr. Richard Liantonio (Deacon), Pat Decker, Mathias Nichols

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 July regular Vestry minutes which were distributed in the August Vestry Packet. Bill Boyd moved to accept the meeting minutes and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed without further discussion.

Financial Report, Chip Buckner, Treasurer

Treasurer Chip Buckner reviewed July revenues and expenses. Pledges for the month were \$15,000 and plate offering was \$3,500; gifts and bequests remained strong following a large gift received in June. He reported that UMB failed to transfer approximately \$37,000 from one of the Cathedral's trusts in July, a repeat of an issue that occurred in March; he followed up in person with UMB and was assured the transfers would resume going forward. The delayed transfer had held up cash needed for the deposit payment on the new organ until additional funds became available.

Excluding the delayed transfer, July revenues were roughly in line with expectations; expenses were modestly higher due to a three-payroll month. Year-to-date, pledges are running about \$5,400 ahead of budget and plate offering about \$1,200 ahead. Reviewing the balance sheet, Chip noted that the operating account increase from the June gift has been moved to the money market account, and highlighted routine changes including new choir robes and clergy discretionary fund spending. Cathedral investments were roughly flat for July and have returned approximately 6% year-to-date, net of transfers to operating, against the portfolio's 60/40 equity-bond allocation. He reported that the Cathedral's overall financial position remains strong for the year.

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

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

Dean Andy previewed several upcoming events: a Northwest Metro Deanery end-of-summer gathering at the Cathedral on Wednesday, September 9th, from 5 to 7 p.m.; the Croquet Tournament on September 12th; the ministry fair and back-to-school blessing on September 13th; and the start of fall formation classes on September 20th. He also noted that ordinations will be held this Saturday, at which Deacon Richard Liantonio will be one of four candidates ordained to the priesthood; he will celebrate his first services on Sunday.

Dean Andy reported on his recently concluded sabbatical, thanking the Vestry, clergy, and staff for their work while he was away on sabbatical. He briefly recapped his travels in Europe, including time in Paris and Italy and a visit to the Vatican.

Whom Should We Thank?

Rebecca Ballinger-Clark
Courtney Fletcher
Becky Johnson
Kelli Van Meter

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

Canon James reported that fall formation programming remains on schedule. He relayed feedback from a newcomer, Dennis, who recently moved back to Kansas City and has been visiting a number of Kansas City-area Episcopal parishes while looking for a new church home. Dennis reported that the Cathedral was among the most welcoming parishes he visited, and noted that the Cathedral and St. Paul's were the only parishes that followed up with him after he completed a welcome card.

Associate's Report *The Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano*

Mother Clare reported that the nursery reopened the Sunday the Dean returned from sabbatical, staffed by Debbie and Alexis, who will also provide nursery care for Saturday's ordination service. The nursery is open from 9:15 to 12:30 on Sunday mornings; she will be notifying Children's Ministry parents that care is available during the 9:15 formation hour, with an eventual goal of restoring a regular children's formation hour once attendance supports it.

She reported that she surveyed children and youth at different services this Sunday about what they would like to see in the next Children and Youth Ministry hire, and will share that feedback with the Dean along with additional recommendations. She also noted that funds budgeted for the vacant Associate Organist position may instead be redirected toward increased compensation and hours for the role, to help attract qualified candidates.

Mtr. Clare reminded the Vestry of the September 13th backpack blessing. She noted that her last Sunday at the Cathedral will be September 20th, with her move to a new parish expected in the final week of September.

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

Deacon Barbara reported that Nourish KC has temporarily closed on Mondays and Fridays due to funding cuts, primarily to SNAP. She is working to develop a team of Eucharistic Visitors as well as a broader pastoral care team for visits, communion, and ongoing communication. The Cathedral currently

maintains an at-home visitation list of over 20 households (39 individuals); 3 individuals are currently providing Eucharistic visits, with 2 more eligible to begin soon.

In response to a question from the Vestry about how long Safe Church and diversity training remain valid, Deacon Barbara explained that, per her understanding — which she is still confirming with the diocese — diversity training does not need to be repeated once completed, while Safe Church certification must be renewed every three years to keep one's license current. She noted that clergy are subject to additional training requirements beyond those for Vestry members, and that she has found some discrepancies in how the requirements are described on the diocesan website. Julie Toma has already sent everyone the specific Safe Church modules required for their role. Deacon Barbara also reported that a background investigation is required, completed as an online release form at a cost of about \$11, which the Cathedral covers.

An in-person Safe Church training open to the whole diocese is being scheduled at the Cathedral on November 14th, and it can also be completed individually online. Diversity training, by contrast, must be completed in person at a diocesan-scheduled workshop, and is required of Vestry members and all licensed lay ministry, including Eucharistic ministers. Deacon Barbara said the diocese maintains completion records but that she has received conflicting information from different diocesan contacts about who specifically holds them. The only diversity training currently scheduled is September 26th in Clinton, Missouri, about two hours away, for which registration is open now. The lack of training availability presents challenges to the creation and growth of the Eucharistic Visitor program.

Stewardship Report, presented by Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair

Steve reported that the 2026 stewardship campaign has been formally concluded. He and Dean Andy, with Blain Lagergren, have begun developing a theme for the 2027 campaign; more information to follow.

Junior Warden's Report, presented by Nigel Jones

Nigel reported that HVAC work in Founders' Hall is nearly complete, with testing and final setting remaining; the humidity level in Founders' Hall will continue to be monitored, as the original system was not designed with dehumidification. On lighting, the original design firm's prior bid was over \$27,000 (not including a lift) and would have required moving the pews; a new bid came back at \$9,500 for the repair, including a lift that can straddle the pews, plus up to \$4,000 for replacement drivers, for a probable total of about \$13,500. The Finance Committee has budgeted funds for the work.

On the Memorial Garden, Nigel reported that he, Valerie, Jeff, and Julie met to finalize the list of names for engraving; roughly ten names are still being located, and installation is planned this fall before cold weather. On the organ, the deposit letter and check were sent following last month's Vestry meeting. A congregational information meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 30th at 12:30 p.m., following coffee hour; a tri-fold handout and presentation are being prepared.

Senior Warden Report, presented by Steve Moore

Executive Session began at 6:30pm. Executive Session ended at 6:35pm.

Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports

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

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

The committee discussed the need to begin the FY2027 budget process; the budget committee is expected to be similar to last year's (Bill Boyd, Nigel Jones, and Steve Moore, along with the Dean and Wardens ex officio).

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

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

The committee reported strong turnout for Trivia Night (approximately 35 attendees) and previewed a Cathedral Family Feud event planned for November 20th, which will draw questions from a new congregational survey. An outdoor movie night is planned for October 16th. The committee is also beginning to plan the 2027 social calendar.

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

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

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

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

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

Additional Discussion

Old Business

The Vestry briefly discussed logistics for Sunday's congregational information meeting on the organ project, including anticipated attendance and audio/visual needs.

New Business

Dean Andy reported that Fr. Paul Turner of Immaculate Conception has asked to rejoin the Cathedral for its annual Blessing of the Animals, a joint tradition the two parishes have not observed together in recent years. The Vestry discussed adding light refreshments for the event.

Nigel noted an upcoming diocesan webinar on capital campaigns scheduled for October 27th and will follow up with the diocesan contact for more information.

The next Vestry meeting will be September 24th at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room and via teleconference.

Charles Shipley 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 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colin Chambers, Clerk