

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Saturday, February 17, 2024

Approved at the March 21, 2024 Vestry meeting

Vestry Members and Leadership Present In-Person:

The Very Rev. Andrew Keyse (Dean), The Rev. W. James Yazell, Paula Livingston Lewis, Charles Shipley, Nigel Jones, Sharon Cheers, Michael Thomas, Sara Copeland, Julie Brogno, Valerie Johnson (Jr. Warden), Mathias Nichols, Steve Moore (Sr. Warden), Pat Decker, Blain Lagergren (Clerk)

Via teleconference (Zoom): Chip Buckner (Treasurer)

The meeting was held in in-person format in Founders Hall. The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m.

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Valerie Johnson presented the January regular Vestry minutes that were distributed in the February Vestry Packet. **Michael Thomas moved to accept the January minutes and was seconded by Paula Livingston Lewis. The motion passed with no discussion.**

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

Upcoming events: Lenten classes start this Wednesday. A Lenten Journey with the St. John's Bible will be presented by Bob Johnson on Wednesdays from February 21st to March 20th at 6:30pm-7:45pm. A class on the Book of Jonah will also be presented by Fr. James and his spouse Kelsey Yazell on Wednesdays from February 21st to March 20th at 6:30pm-7:45pm. Both classes are followed by Compline in the Nave. The *2024 Annual Conference of the Episcopal Parish Network* will occur in Houston on March 6th through 9th. Dean Andy, Fr. James, Deacon Barbara, Steve Moore, and Julie Toma will be traveling to attend. Funds are specially budgeted for the conference from outside of the operating budget. The schedule for Holy Week and Easter will remain as it has these past few years with Tuesday morning of Holy Week seeing the Diocesan Chrism Mass and Renewal of Ordination Vows followed by lunch.

Diocesan Convention: Delegates are Christine Morrison, Chris Morrison, Joyce Morrow, Sara Copeland, Janet Sweeting, Ric Sweeting, Nick Smith, Curtis Hamilton. Kim Smith (Alternate).

Sharon Cheers moved to approve slate of convention delegates and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed after brief discussion.

Associate's Report, *The Rev. James Yazell*

In addition to Wednesday classes in Lent, Fr. James will teach Anglican Spiritual Practices at 9:15am which will be the Sunday class during Lent beginning this Sunday the 18th of February.

Financial Report presented by *Chip Buckner, Treasurer*

Expenditures for operating fund show as under budget in every category in the approximate amount of \$100,000. Clergy and related expenses are in the negative. Lay salaries are under budget by approximately \$55,000. The problem persists/ed over a series of months, and as a result this month's numbers are misleading. The numbers as presented last year were and remain incorrect. Accurate numbers are necessary to proceed. Rough prediction is that expenses last year were approximately \$80,000 lower than presented. There is a procedural problem that needs to be discovered and corrected moving forward.

In short, the numbers cannot be relied on or believed at this point. Chip was unable to take detailed questions by reasons of familiarity and the scope of issues to be reconciled. The full extent of the issue has not yet been fully uncovered and further discussion at this time would be highly speculative.

Julie Brogno moved to table acceptance of Treasurer's report until the next meeting and was seconded by Michael Thomas. Motion passed without discussion.

Stewardship Report *presented by Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair*

We have received 106 pledges totaling \$331,402. 34 pledges remain unrenewed, historically totaling \$166,000. We are budgeted for \$500,000 in pledges this year. Assuming receipt of those unrenewed pledges we should be at or a bit under that goal. Numbers are relatively comparable to years past, as at this point in the year we were at \$361,000 in 2023, and \$355,000 in 2022. We will put another call out by letter and might see pledges as late as March, April, and potentially June, bringing those numbers closer together.

Junior Warden Report *presented by Valerie Johnson*

Valerie thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as junior warden. She is looking forward to continuing building relationships both in our church family and regarding the Buildings and Grounds committee, which will meet on Tuesday, March 12th.

Senior Warden Report *presented by Steve Moore*

Steve thanked everyone for participation in the experience of the vestry retreat. He is looking forward to working with everyone and achieving our five-year goals.

Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports

Social Outreach, *Paula Livingston-Lewis*

No report.

Community Engagement,

No report. Previously chaired by Ron Michka. We have a continued presence on the downtown council through Ron and Deacon Barbara. Our Lady of Immaculate Conception is constructing new social outreach facilities. Dean Andy met with Fr. Paul Turner, in furtherance of potential joint activities in the future.

Safety/Security, *Sharon Cheers*

As a member of the downtown community, we are affected by the security situation downtown. Sharon sent out a link concerning safety and security for our churches and believes it would be a positive to acknowledge those who support our security here at the Cathedral. Current political action on the guns in churches issue saw a bill that would have limited the ability of churches to deny access to firearms absent appropriate signage dropped.

Children's Formation/Young Adults

No report.

Communications

No report.

Old Business

Valerie Johnson – The Childrens’ choir is coming, as discussed at the annual meeting. The development and supervision of the children’s choir is included under Dr. Lucas Fletcher’s job description. Dr. Paul Meyer hopes to have a group in place by Pentecost, which would see it in May of 2024. The exact structure and development process is unknown currently. There will be both a bylaw review and update as well as an outline of the electronic process performed as part of the strategic plan, under the supervision of Mark Galus.

Sharon Cheers – The handbell choir hopes to have three to four rehearsals prior to Eastertide.

New Business

Dean Andy advised the Vestry of his intent, pursuant to his letter of agreement with the Cathedral and in recognition of spouses as full inclusive members of the *North American Deans’ Conference*, to utilize his travel budget and, in the event of any overage, his entertainment and hospitality budget for his spouse Beth Keyse to attend the aforementioned event in Ottawa, Canada from April 18th to the 21st of 2024. There was no objection from the Vestry, and Dean Andy elected to proceed as intended.

The next Vestry Meeting will be March 21 at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room and teleconference.

Sara Copeland moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed.

A closing prayer was led by Dean Andy. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Blain Lagergren, Clerk

2024 Vestry Committee Appointments:

Buildings and Grounds – Valerie Johnson, Michael Thomas, Charles Shipley, Nigel Jones, Sharon Cheers;

Finance – Steve Moore, Valerie Johnson, Michael Thomas, Pat Decker;

New Comers – Julie Brogno;

Social Outreach – Paula Livingston-Lewis, Julie Brogno;

Security – Sharon Cheers;

Stewardship – Steve Moore, Mathias Nichols, Blain Lagergren;

Budget – Steve Moore, Nigel Jones, Sara Copeland, Sharon Cheers, Pat Decker, Valerie Johnson;

Children and Young Adults – Blain Lagergren, Sara Copeland, Charles Shipley, Mathias Nichols, Paula Livingston-Lewis