

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, September 25, 2025

Approved at the October 23, 2025 Vestry meeting

Vestry Members and Leadership Present

In-Person: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse (Dean), The Rev. W. James Yazell (Associate Priest), Charles Shipley, Blain Lagergren (Clerk), Nigel Jones (Jr. Warden), Chip Buckner (Treasurer), Christine Morrison, Bill Boyd, Steve Moore (Sr. Warden)

Via teleconference (Zoom): The Rev. Barbara Wegener (Deacon), Steve King, Paget Higgins, Julie Brogno

Absent: Colin Chambers, Mathias Nichols, Pat Decker

Others Present: John Braum, Dr. Lucas Fletcher

The meeting was held in hybrid format (Common Room and via Zoom teleconference). The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Dean Andy with opening worship.

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Blain Lagergren presented the August regular Vestry minutes which were distributed in the September Vestry Packet. **Nigel Jones moved to accept the meeting minutes and was seconded by Charles Shipley. The motion passed without further discussion.**

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

Upcoming events: Friday, October 3 is the music fundraiser with the KC Jazz Orchestra. Saturday, October 4 is the Blessing of the Animals at 11:00 a.m. Sunday, October 5 is the Blessing of the Stuffed Animals. Hymn sing will be at 3:30 p.m. the afternoon of October 5. Healing service will be Sunday October 19, which is the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Luke. We have two more Evensongs in the Fall season and December will be Lessons and Carols. Game night will be October 24 at 6:00 p.m. which will be Halloween bingo.

Strategic Plan Update: We have hired an associate organist, Zaheer Popo. He will start Tuesday September 30 and Sunday October 5 will be first Sunday. The Rev. Clare Stern-Burbano will be returning part-time as the Associate for College, Youth & Children's Ministry as well as staff clergy. Dioceses of West Missouri and Kansas will be collaborating to ensure appropriate benefits. We will hopefully have a formal announcement soon. October 5 will be her first Sunday back.

Whom Should We Thank?

Colin Chambers, for his volunteer work with Pete's Garden. Ron Michka and Holly Campbell, for their work on the croquet tournament.

Dr. Lucas Fletcher presented regarding the state of the organs in the Cathedral.

CB Fisk surveyed the Cathedral's two organs and prepared reports concerning both the Continuo organ, the smaller portable organ, and the Kney Organ, the Cathedral's main organ. Total cost for the repair of the Continuo organ would not exceed \$13,500 and could hopefully proceed next summer. The Kney organ presents both mechanical and engineering issues, prematurely wearing components owing to the design itself, and materials issues, such as aluminum and fiberglass construction, and a total replacement of mechanism is recommended. Fisk and Dobson have declined to participate in any rebuild of the organ due to the potential complexity of the repair and previous negative results with similarly built organs. Replacement of the larger Kney organ appears to be the only path forward. Although highly speculative, tentative price for the replacement of the Kney organ is in the neighborhood of two and a half million dollars.

We are waiting on an environmental controls analysis. The Kney organ isn't usable after noon in the warmer months because of tuning issues associated with thermal material shift. A new organ would accommodate for this. An A/C system rework may be necessary to address noise generation of the system. A reinforcement of the choral loft may be necessary to accommodate any new organ contemplated to replace the Kney organ due to the size of a potential replacement.

Our process would be to enter into an intermediate design contract with Fisk for larger Kney.

Moved forward to Finance Committee instead of through Budget.

Would address \$13,500 at the next Finance Committee meeting, for the smaller continuo organ.

There was a discussion of the Choral Pilgrimage agreement. A thank you was voiced from the Vestry to the group that produced it. The trip necessitates an agreement governing the Pilgrimage so that there is clarity with regard to the steps needed to protect the Cathedral's status, the obligations and responsibilities of those involved, as well as the necessary and critical thresholds to be met prior to any such trip taking place. John Braum and Wayne Alexander will contribute financing on a more limited basis in addition to the choir self-funding. There are plans for a shadow tour accompanying as well.

Charles Shipley moved to accept the form of the Choral Pilgrimage Agreement and was seconded by Blain Lagergren. The motion passed without further discussion.

John Braum presented on the details of the Choral Pilgrimage.

The potential financial commitment of John Braum and Wayne Alexander to the trip was outlaid. The details of the invitation from Hereford Cathedral, St. Saviour's Cathedral, St. George's Hanover Square, and Buckingham Palace were presented.

Associate's Report, presented by The Rev. James Yazell

Our study of the prayer book has begun and has been popular. Our newcomer gathering went well, with seven newcomers. Special thanks to Beth Keyse and Julie Brogno for their help with hospitality.

Deacon's Report, The Rev. Barbara Wegener

Ministry fair we had additional people sign up for eucharistic ministers and visitors, Steve King, Nick Flowers, Chris Bridgforth. Christine and Deacon Barbara are developing decision tree for in-reach.

Financial Report *presented by Chip Buckner, Treasurer*

June, July, and August Revenue: Pledges differ highly from month to month, user fees are down for July and August, but Tap to Pay revenues are not showing up there as they should, so those are not down as much as it appears.

Pledge income is slightly down in June and August, but July was great. YTD difference is up \$300. Plate income is considerably lower relative to last year. Gifts and bequests are slight lower YTD, but not a cause for concern. Recurring bequests received more than expected. User fees are down except that they're not, as discussed previously. The money market has generated interest income. Endowment to operating is up, more than expected. Interfund transfers, not happy with how it is being accounted for, so will ignore this line until year end, but it's not actually a problem.

Expenses: YTD we are, with exception of Nigel and Facilities, saving a ton of money everywhere. Facilities are much higher. YTD expenses are roughly \$14,000 lower, inclusive of facilities negative.

Balance sheet for June, July, August: Moved a great deal of money into money market fund, and it will show negative for the check account and positive for the money market. Investment securities made roughly \$400,000 over July and August. The rest of the funds experienced nominal fluctuations. We are generally okay, even accounting for facilities expenses, and absent building expenses we'll have a great year.

Nigel Jones moved to accept the June and July Financial Reports and was seconded by Charles Shipley. The motion passed without further discussion.

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

The theme this year is Love in Action, Growing in Faith and Community, really a take on Dean Andy's statements at the Annual Meeting, that we are really focusing on growth through welcoming and inviting. We are adding handwritten notes to the letters going out, to which we attributed last year's positive response.

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

We're going to get concrete done in courtyard soon, Julie is in contact with contractor. Trying to find out if they'll do diocesan close at the same time. We received a donation from the Diocese of \$9,000. Remainder will be coming from Grace Fund for property as a capital expense, not as a budget item. We are working on the Memorial Garden's new trees, six new trees coming in thanks to donations. We have a student from Pembroke performing community service component, Brend Eichman. Mums were planted in the courtyard. Haden Hall now have three pumps for the HVAC installed. Ready for winter season. Pete's Garden new lease completed, increasing floor space and parking, and rent. High cylinder lights in the nave are acting up, at the moment three are consistently out, up to seven have had issues.

Senior Warden Report, *presented by Steve Moore*

Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports

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

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

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*

Incorporated into Stewardship Report.

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

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

Information was sent out on budget to Julie Toma, and there will be a meeting on October 8. The plan is to go over new data with Julie then zoom from home.

Additional Discussion

Old Business

New Business

All questions regarding Choral Pilgrimage will now go to Dr. Lucas Fletcher.

Name The Rev. James Yazell Canon of the Cathedral over adult Christian formation. The bishop has agreed with it, but Vestry approval is needed.

Bill Boyd moved to approved the appointment of The Rev. James Yazell as Canon of the Cathedral and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed without discussion.

The next Vestry Meeting will be October 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room and via teleconference.

Bill Boyd 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 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Blain Lagergren, Clerk