

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, March 27, 2025

Approved at the April 24, 2025 Vestry meeting

Vestry Members and Leadership Present

In-Person: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse (Dean), Charles Shipley, Steve Moore (Sr. Warden), Nigel Jones, Bill Boyd, Colin Chambers, Chip Buckner (Treasurer), Blain Lagergren (Clerk), Julie Brogno

Via teleconference (Zoom): Steve King, The Rev. W. James Yazell (Associate Priest), The Rev. Barbara Wegener (Deacon), Pat Decker

Absent: The Rev. C.J. Duffie (Deacon), Christine Morrison, Mathias Nichols, Paget Higgins

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 February regular Vestry minutes and the minutes of the special meeting of the Vestry on March 8, both of which were distributed in the March Vestry Packet. Nigel Jones moved to accept the meeting minutes as presented and was seconded by Bill Boyd. The motion passed without further discussion.

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

Upcoming events: There are no drastic changes to the Holy Week schedule. Palm Sunday will be a regular Sunday service. There will be a 12:05 p.m. Eucharist on Monday, Tuesday will be the Diocesan Chrism Mass and Renewal of Ordination Vows at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday will be the normal 12:05 p.m. Eucharist, Thursday will only be our Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m., and Good Friday we will have 9:00 a.m. and 12:05 p.m. services as well as a 5:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross. There will be a 9:00 a.m. Holy Saturday service with the Easter Vigil at 7:00 p.m. that night replete with roughly 8 youth and 8 adult Confirmations, and 1 Baptism; then 2 services on the morning of Easter Day. Morning Prayer will proceed as planned during Holy Week.

Strategic Plan Update: Our tap to pay stand is in place in the tower and has a sign directly on it with directions next to it. We have had 5 taps for a total of \$150 since it's been put up, one of which was \$50. Text to Church, our SMS texting system, is operational now, and there are bulletin directions for joining. We have an update on Ed Miller, the aspirant who was placed with us last September for congregational discernment time, coming from Good Shepherd in Kansas City. A committee was formed – Dean Andy, Deacon Barbara, Fr. James, Joan Bergstrom, Deborah Carr – to discern his call to the Diaconate and recommended him with reservations, needing experience in certain areas, and the commission for ministry will take it from here and direct him. It was a positive experience and we are thankful to the committee for doing this work.

It is typical for certain groups to donate for gifts for the Bishop Elect. It is appropriate for Cathedral to offer a gift. We have funds in the Vestry Discretionary Account. Dean Andy spoke with Warren Swenson who is on the committee overseeing those gifts and the suggestion was the purchase of a specific item, a mitre simplex, at a cost of \$990.

Bill Boyd moved to authorize funds for the purchase from the Vestry Discretionary Account and was seconded by Julie Brogno. The motion passed without further discussion.

Whom Should We Thank?

Kristen Nichols and Sarah Lagergren for their presence and guidance during the incident at the Daughters of the King service.

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

We had our Rule of Life Workshop on Ash Wednesday, with 13 attendees. As an information point, separate from our morning prayer services, we now have around 6 parishioners that are regularly saying morning prayer on their own. In terms of our morning prayer service, we have 2-4 people in-person regularly, 2-5 people watching live on Facebook, and 10-20 people watching after the fact. The Path will continue until after Easter.

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

Deacon Barbara has been speaking about gun violence and the deaths attributable to it for some time and is now praying regarding specific numbers. This is in connection with Lynette Johnson and Patti Rider who are part of Moms Demand Action or other gun safety advocacy groups that are connected to Tara Bennett and other organizations. There is an organization that sends out a weekly listing of those lives lost. Deacon Barbara has been getting the numbers from that through Lynette. At St. Mary's they have a binder in which they place those names, which they bless. We will be placing a similar book at the Healing Altar. St. Paul's recently ran parking at the Cathedral and donated the proceeds to NourishKC. It is a great way to support NourishKC and Pete's Garden and others. Could the Cathedral form groups to take some of those parking days? We have brought SafeChurch to the Cathedral for Vestry and Eucharistic Visitors. It will be 4 hours, released for lunch in the middle, on April 5 at 10:00 a.m. in the Common Room.

Financial Report *presented by Chip Buckner, Treasurer*

2025 YTD comparison with budget.

Revenues. Pledge numbers are up both January and February. Plate Offering was up in January and down in February. Gifts and bequests haven't come in the expected volume yet. Recurring bequests have come in early and greater than expected and were up in both January and February. User Fees and Interest Income were both up. Endowment to Operating was higher than expected. For Interfund Transfers we have not transferred the money from one account to the other yet, Steve Berman is being cautious, so it displays as less than expected.

Expenses. Community and Social Ministry lower in February. Clergy Salary was much lower in January than expected but slightly up in February. Lay Salary less than expected. Facility was up in January and lower in February. Music was more than expected in both January and February owing to the paid staff singers and extra calls such as EPN. Parish Life was less than expected. Nursery was slightly higher than expected. Total January was higher but February was much lower.

Three-month balance sheet.

Big changes in the audit prevented the balance sheet from balancing previously. Steve Berman and Chip and Brenda Colburn are now happy with the numbers. The December numbers incorporate audit number changes from 2022. Operating fund we are 10% down December to January and January to February. Money Market we are down 10% December to January and 5% January to February. Trust Fund UMB we are 10% down December to January. Flower and Candle Fund we are 10% down December to January. The Music Guild Fund has balanced as a result of audit changes – which are expenditures for things other than regular staff singers and sheet music, such as outside instrumentalists. Music Guild Fund saw a large hit the last few years because of the Messiah Sing Along being charged to that account. Clergy discretionary was 10% down December to January and January to February – but does vary from month to month. Outreach Ministries was down 5% December to January and 10% January to February. Cash Account to Money Market showing a larger negative because it has earned interest. If there's more than \$180,000 in the checking account Chip moves it into the Money Market, if it's less move it back into the Operating Account. Securities went up in January (\$17 million), down in February (\$16.9 million), and probably will be down in March. The Operating Cash Accounts have been nominal in their fluctuations.

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

Stewardship Report, presented by Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair

The budget set for stewardship this year was \$455,000. We are quite near to achieving our goal. We have received pledges totaling \$411,890. We have 29 pledges that have not renewed. 15 of those 29 people are giving as though they have pledged – \$35,670 and we are treating those as pledges. We are at \$447,000 with those included, \$8,000 shy of our goal. 14 pledges remaining nonrenewed – \$29,000 – some will not be renewed for various reasons. Follow-ups will be going out soon and Steve is more than pleased at where we are at this time.

Junior Warden Report, presented by Nigel Jones

February did well for Buildings and Grounds and utilities. We have a bid for the sewer line repair of \$19,500 and we do not expect it to change. We spent a small amount on lighting in Haden Hall fixtures, roughly \$1300. Electrical surge resulted in the failure of HVAC pumps which will require replacement, roughly \$13,450. Pete's Garden contributed \$5,000 for the hot water heater. The roof leak repair, on the side of the tower outside, is on the to do list. We lost trees in memorial garden and we are exploring options for new trees and stump removal through Family Nurseries. We need to do small housekeeping in anticipation for bishop consecration such as the black tape on the steps and the blue tape on the floor. Nigel will be meeting with Angie next week.

Senior Warden Report, presented by Steve Moore

Thanks to everyone for the Vestry retreat, it was tremendously successful, and we are working on follow up. We want Jon Braum to put together an AED and CPR training.

Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports

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

Incorporated into Junior Warden's Report.

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

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

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

We will be meeting for social event on Sunday at coffee hour to plan. Brainstorming for an event every month and to put out a calendar.

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

Children & Youth, *Blain Lagergren, Mathias Nichols*

We are going to review candidate for Clare Stern-Burbano's replacement. Clare's last day will be in the first week of July as opposed to June 30 in order that insurance coverage is maintained. There are potentially going to be some budgetary savings from the Assistant Organist position which we will hopefully be able to apply to offer a nicer package to the Youth and Children coordinator.

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

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

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

Additional Discussion

Old Business

New Business

Colin broached the idea of a share drive for committee documents and will be discussing that with Julie Toma. Christine Morrison is in the process of putting short vignettes and sermons on Facebook.

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

Nigel Jones moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Colin Chambers. The motion passed.

A closing prayer was led by Dean Andy. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Blain Lagergren, Clerk