

# Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

## Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, August 28, 2025

*Approved at the September 25, 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), Pat Decker, Nigel Jones (Jr. Warden), Steve King, Chip Buckner (Treasurer), Christine Morrison

Via teleconference (Zoom): Mathias Nichols, Julie Brogno, The Rev. Barbara Wegener (Deacon)

Absent: Steve Moore (Sr. Warden), Paget Higgins, Bill Boyd, Colin Chambers

Others Present: John Braum, Lucas Fletcher

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 June regular Vestry minutes which were distributed in the August Vestry Packet. Spelling corrections were necessary to several names in the minutes. **Charles Shipley moved to accept the meeting minutes as amended and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed without further discussion.**

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

Upcoming events: Our Ministry Fair and Backpack Blessing will be September 7. There will be a French music concert September 12 at 7:00 pm. The Croquet Tournament will be September 13 with an Alice in Wonderland theme.

Strategic Plan Update: Dean Andy has made an offer to the prospective Associate Organist and he has accepted, he will start about September 30. Dean Andy interviewed a candidate for the Children's and Youth minister position and has another interview next week as well.

Dean Andy's car was stolen from out of the lot on Tuesday at 1:30 pm. It was recovered later that afternoon.

### **Whom Should We Thank?**

Kelly and Emily from the choir. Claudia and Maribeth.

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

We finished *The Great Divorce* last Sunday and there will be a bonus session this Sunday of a short story by J.R.R. Tolkien. We will take a break on the September 7 for ministry fair and September 14 will start the program year

with Episcopal Beliefs and Practices: A Study of the Prayer Book. That should take us through the program year into Easter. We have our first newcomer gathering September 14 after the 10:30 service in the common room. We want to bring newcomers together with clergy in small group sessions to answer questions, provide an information packet addressing questions such as: How do I join? What does it mean to join? etc. The various ministries, who to contact, calendars, and so on and so forth. Let's give a shout out to volunteers for newcomers, and those taking time to sit at the newcomer table such as Kelsey and Colin.

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

After the ministry fair we will attempt to resurrect the pastoral care team with Christine and to develop in-reach group within cathedral community.

**Financial Report presented by Chip Buckner, Treasurer**

We came close to hitting minimum balance in account this July. We moved \$109,919.21 in and \$385,408.59 out, leaving us with \$62,629.89. Facility expenses were much larger than budgeted.

Revenues and Expenses: June and July 2025.

Pledges in June were lower, but higher in July. Plate is close. Gifts and bequests were low but received a large recurring bequest of \$197,844 in June. User fees were way down in July.

Clergy salary and lay salary were up in June. Clergy salary was lower in July. Lay salary was higher in July. Expenses were \$4,897 up in June and \$25,451 up in July. Long term we are not bringing in as much money as we are spending.

Balance Sheet: YTD

Funds were placed in Braum and Alexander Fund incorrectly. We corrected and moved to operating fund. We are roughly \$633,000 more in our investments than we thought we did last month. Chip doesn't know why that is at this time.

Cathedral property value has not changed. Various withholding accounts the liabilities have generally grown but that is not concerning. The individual earmarked items in our accounts by and large have not changed.

Assuming the numbers are correct, changes from May to June to July do not concern Chip. Our investments are growing.

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

**Stewardship Report, presented by Blain Lagergren on behalf of Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair**

Steve Moore, Mathias Nichols, and Blain Lagergren met via zoom on July 30 to discuss the upcoming stewardship campaign. We began with Steve's idea that three (trinity) was a number upon which to focus our efforts in assembling our theme and we followed with a brainstorming session utilizing online tools as a jumping off point for those slogans. We focused on the idea that growth (and growing) necessarily applied to our faith, our community, and our love for each other. We discussed the upcoming ministry fair as a point of contact for establishing those personal stewardship meetings and gatherings, and for recruiting potential stewardship testimonials. It was generally agreed that the handwritten approach should be adopted for every campaign moving forward. From our

discussion and brainstorming we produced a list of options for potential themes and from that list we felt that these two resonated the best. **Love in action: Growing in faith and community.** (Dean Andy's choice) Gathered in love: Growing in faith and community. In these we saw a tripartite consideration for growth in the context of faith, community (which encompasses both size and quality of relationship), and love (which underpins both of the preceding). August 28 we will have a pledge kick-off letter drafted so that it can be distributed to Vestry for personal notes. September 7 will be the Ministry Fair. Perhaps begin to get sign-ups for in-home gatherings? September 28 will be the stewardship sermon and luncheon. Continue to get sign-ups for in-home gatherings? October will see in-home gatherings. Julie Toma has also provided us with rough draft ideas.

Tap to pay revenue for March 14-30 was \$190, April was \$350, May was \$120, June was \$240, July was \$100, Aug 1-28 was \$70. The total is \$1070. Parking tap to pay for June 21-Aug 28 totaled \$3930.

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

Buildings and grounds, nothing major that has happened since we last met. Window unit for Lucas' office was purchased for a temporary solution after his air conditioning failed. Landscaping in June cost nearly \$19,000 which was a surprise. Tree removal was the only expense that we instigated, annual maintenance accounted for the rest. We are in the red on grounds expenses by \$1750 and in the black by about \$12,300 on facilities repairs expenses. The Pete's Garden lease is increasing from \$500 to \$900 per month.

#### **Senior Warden Report, presented by Steve Moore**

#### **Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports**

Dr. Lucas Fletcher presented the details for a potential Choral Pilgrimage trip.

The trip would be to London and Hereford. Dr. Fletcher's focus would be on recruitment for the choir, which is difficult. He proposed utilizing more marketing and social media, and a planning process and governing document whereby conditions are set for the pilgrimage, which would be in July 2027.

There was Vestry consensus to move forward with the preparation of a document governing the development of, and conditions for, the Choral Pilgrimage trip prior to the next Vestry meeting.

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

Incorporated in Jr. Warden's report.

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

Budgets have all been returned. We are currently compiling. We will set our next meeting upon Bill Boyd's return.

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

We labeled 2700 lids for Pete's Garden. We will continue that activity on the third Sunday of each month. TEFAP continues. Necessities drive for August. The Happy Bottoms dinner is September 18. The next committee meeting is September 7.

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

The goal is to provide a full year's calendar of activities. We are still taking names for Food and Friends, which will combine with the Social Events committee. There will be a table at the Ministry Fair.

**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*

#### **Additional Discussion**

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

We have put forward an invitation to Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce to hold their wedding at the Cathedral.

The next Vestry Meeting will be September 25 at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room and via teleconference.

Charles Shipley moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Blain Lagergren. The motion passed.

A closing prayer was led by Dean Andy. The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Blain Lagergren, Clerk