

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, January 25, 2024

Approved at the February 17, 2024 Vestry meeting

Vestry Members and Leadership Present In-Person: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse (Dean), The Rev. James Yazell (Associate Priest), Candy McDowell (Sr. Warden), Michael Thomas (Jr. Warden), Blain Lagergren, Sharon Cheers, Ron Michka, Steve Moore (Chancellor); Via teleconference: Sara Copeland, Julie Brogno, Mathias Nichols, Pat Decker, Paula Livingston-Lewis, Deacon Barbara Wegener, David Barker (Treasurer); **Absent:** Kay Woolley, Valerie Johnson (Clerk)

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 Dean Andy presented the December 19, 2023, regular Vestry minutes that were distributed in the January Vestry Packet. **Candy McDowell moved to accept the December 2023, minutes and was seconded by Sara Copeland. The motion passed with no discussion.**

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

Vestry members: Dean Andy thanked the outgoing Vestry members for their years of service and ministry: Candy McDowell (served as Sr. Warden), Ron Michka (having completed 2 terms in Vestry), Kay Woolley, and Pat Decker (also standing for re-election).

Upcoming events: The All-parish Annual Meeting will be January 28. The Vestry, including newly-elected members, will meet immediately following the Annual Meeting. Sunday, February 11, Chris Cakes will be on campus to serve pancake breakfasts following each morning worship service. A Mardi Gras dinner will be held in Haden Hall on Fat Tuesday (13th). Ash Wednesday will have 3 services: 7 a.m. (led by Bishop Diane), noon, and 7 p.m. The Vestry Retreat is scheduled for February 17th in person on campus.

Christmas Offering: The 2023 Christmas Offering collected is shared (one half) with a designated organization. \$1361.00 is the half collected for Shelter KC.

GHTC received a special gift from the estate of Amy DeYoung, a granddaughter of Bishop Spencer. In early 2023, \$2,100.00 was received from her estate. Last month, an additional \$38,000.00 was gifted to GHTC with no restrictions. The Vestry expressed their shared gratitude for this generosity.

Associate's Report, The Rev. James Yazell

Fr. James will wrap up the book study, *Being Christian*, on January 28. Upcoming Sunday classes will focus upon Anglican spiritual practice in an experiential format. Wednesday evenings during Lent, simultaneous classes will be offered on St. John's Bible and Jonah followed by Compline. Dean Andy has 2 attendees currently in the Sunday adult confirmation classes. This year there are no youth of confirmation age.

Financial Report presented by David Barker, Treasurer

Financial reports of December and Year End were included in the January Vestry Packet and the following highlights were noted by Dave Barker. In the Operating Budget, pledges in December were the highest since July at \$35,833. Plate was \$17,000. The interfund transfer has now been resolved (\$150,000) and was referred to as "gap accounting". Steve Berman does have a record of where/how those funds were spent and is now accurately reflected in 2023 in the proper line. This is now a zero balance vs. a deficit as it had been appearing on past financial reports. In Expenses, Budget to Actual reflects utilities are still within budget. Expenses are \$59,000 over revenue. In YTD, the budget anticipated \$500,000 in pledges yet were \$460,000, although it is still possible funds will continue to come in bringing that amount to the goal or exceed it. Plate for YTD was strong. Facilities and

Property were within budget. Overall, more money was spent in 2023 than was budgeted but assets were able to absorb that with strong market and good money managers.

Dean Andy noted that going forward, Steve Berman, Julie Toma, Brenda Colburn, Sara Copeland, Chip Buckner of Finance and Budget Committees will strive to create a better format for reporting and helping everyone understand the accounting. Candy McDowell presented a comparison of year-end financials of December 2022 and December 2023. It included: December 2022 reported Adjusted Cash and Investments (including the total 10 cash accounts and total 12 investment accounts) at \$15,489,250.00 In December 2023, this number is \$16,443,333.00. This is an increase of \$954,083 or 6.15965%. This positive note may be due to our favorable market and financial management and emphasized the importance of controlling expenses while increasing pledge income and revenues.

Blain Lagergren moved to accept the Financial Report and was seconded by Candy McDowell. Motion passed without further discussion.

Stewardship Report *presented by Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair*

96 pledges for 2024 have been received totaling \$312,000 vs. this time in 2023 when 104 pledges at \$361,000 had been recorded. The average pledge is down from last year. There are still 43 non-renewed/outstanding pledges.

Junior Warden Report *presented by Michael Thomas*

Buildings and Grounds (BG) Committee met in January and established items of priority for 2024. There is an understanding that repairs will be needed unexpectedly, and not always budgeted completely, but maintenance priorities are intended to minimize surprises and we should carefully plan big projects that may compete with that priority. Parking lot maintenance is important and three areas for 2024 will remain in focus: 1) examining Founders' Hall flooring maintenance to minimize unexpected repair costs; 2) preserving Memorial Garden engravings with protection from weathering; 3) Common Room functionality so budgeting/spending considers the groups' needs and use.

Vestry will be informed of any plans for approval and funding particularly regarding the above-mentioned projects. Additionally noted, The Episcopal Parish Network (EPN) will be held in Kansas City in 2025 and the General Convention in 2030.

Senior Warden Report *presented by Candy McDowell*

In addition to Candy's note regarding financials during Treasurer's Report, she offered thoughts about the Strategic Plan moving forward. She expressed a hope that parishioners/Vestry be bold, and not reckless, when addressing the possibilities of the Strategic Planning Committee's endeavors.

Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports

No reports from the following:

Social Outreach, *Paula Livingston-Lewis*

Community Engagement, *Ron Michka*

Safety/Security, *Sharon Cheers*

Children's Formation; Communications; Young Adults

Old Business None

New Business None

The next Vestry Meeting will be Sunday, January 28, 2024 immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting in the Common Room and teleconference. This Vestry meeting will elect officers and confirm the regular day and time for future Vestry meetings.

The Vestry Retreat will be Saturday, February 17, 2024 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on campus only.

It was suggested the regular Vestry Meeting planned for Thursday, February 22, be held at the end of Vestry Retreat following all prioritized retreat items.

Candy McDowell 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 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Blanco Johnson, Clerk