

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, April 21, 2022

Approved at the May 26, 2022 Vestry Meeting

Members Present: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse (Dean), The Rev. Canon Ryan Wiksell (Associate), Candy McDowell (Sr. Warden), Michael Thomas (Jr. Warden), Valerie Johnson (clerk), Nick Smith, Ken Stewart, Pat Decker, Ron Michka, Bill Colvin, Kay Woolley, Paula Livingston-Lewis, Sharon Cheers

Members Absent: Amy Cornwell

Others Present: David Barker (Treasurer), Steve Moore (Chancellor), Jeff Johnson (visitor)

The meeting was held via Zoom teleconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Dean Andy with opening worship.

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Valerie Johnson presented the March 24, 2022, regular Vestry minutes which contained an addendum of reports that were submitted following the March 24th vestry meeting. After being distributed with the vestry packet, page numbers were inserted.

Candy McDowell moved to accept the minutes as presented and was seconded by Ron Michka. The motion passed unanimously without further discussion.

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

Strategic Planning Committee: The committee will have its first meeting on Monday, April 25, at 7 pm in person at the church. Members of the committee: Mark Galus (chair), Candy McDowell (Sr. Warden), Mike Thomas (Jr. Warden), Andy Keyse (Dean), Ryan Wiksell (Associate Priest), Julie Toma (Cathedral Administrator), Tara Bennett, Don Chase, Ryan Thomas, Melissa Atwell, Diane Barker. The Vestry will serve as a focus group at some point in the process.

William Jewel I Center for Faith and Culture Proposal: This item is moved to Old Business so Bill Colvin can participate in the discussion since he is on the Finance Committee.

Race Relations/Safeguarding training: All should have received an email from Julie if vestry members are required to undergo training. Primarily intended for those working with children. Race Relations training is required for all with the first one on Saturday, April 23 and the continuation on April 30. Chas Marks indicated it would be offered 2 or 3 more times this year and Dean Andy will inform vestry when those are to occur. It will eventually become a one-day, in-person training vs. 2 days online.

Easter Offering: We collected \$3772.50 in loose offering. \$1,886.25 went to the plate and equal amount to ERD. Of that total, \$2,922.50 was collected in person and \$850 collected online.

North American Deans' Conference in Sacramento, CA: This is for all cathedral deans in the U.S. and Canada. They have not met the past two years due to the pandemic. The conference is April 28 through May 1st.

Associate's Report, *The Rev. Canon Ryan Wiksell*

Breakfast on Sundays: Monthly breakfasts are being planned during the summer. Dates may be: May 22, June 19; July 24; August 21. There will not be formation on these Sundays and would be open churchwide during the 9:15 a.m. hour. The first breakfast would be catered and then decide how to proceed for future breakfasts.

Playground: The playground surfacing is complete. Staff discussing a blessing of the playground in the future; and consideration being made to utilizing it as a neighborhood/community asset as a mission activity while acknowledging legal requirements, safety, and hours.

Discussion points: Our playground is attached to the building vs. a stand-alone playground/space away from a building. Haden Hall has glass between the playground and the interior which could pose a security issue. The playground would only be available during daylight hours and would minimize security issues. The gate lock could be controlled on a timer with publicized daytime hours and 'play at own risk'. An enclosed playground is rare to find and permits parents the ability to let their children freely play safely. There would not be a playground attendant to staff the space. Steve Moore (Chancellor) indicated we will need to consult with church insurance in order to consider liability and maintenance required to minimize risk. Any defects on equipment could pose risk and susceptibility to lawsuit/claim. Some church schools (ie. St. Paul's) do not allow access to their fields/playground. Safety around/near a parking lot with cars and activity on the grounds. Washington St. gate is usually open to foot traffic but not vehicles, which could minimize the risk of cut-through cars. Canon Ryan and Steve Moore were asked to research this and bring back pros and cons to the group.

Youth Sunday, May 1: Clare Stern-Burbano (Youth and College Minister) and Elvarea Bennett organizing the day. They will co-preach at the 10:30 service. Bachathon is taking place on the same day so the 5:00 p.m. service will be outdoor or in Haden Hall.

Financial Report presented by David Barker, Treasurer

The Financial Report and Financial Committee Minutes were submitted to Vestry members prior to this meeting. Dave Barker (Treasurer) highlighted:

"GHTC Accounts" spreadsheet: This document was created to identify accounts, what they can be used for, and who can use them. The accounts in the 1000's are duplicate accounts of the amounts seen in the Kemper accounts seen above in the financial reports. This is an intended resource for the vestry. This was compiled by Doyle White, Richard Wolf and Dave Barker.

Finances in March Income is strong (better than budget). Plate offering is strong. User fees are bringing in some income and predicted to increase as outside groups and in-person activities return. Expenses are lower than budgeted partly due to just beginning to return. Money spent on facility is down but utilities are on the way up as a function of natural gas prices. This, however, should decrease as we move into summer and electric utility will rise. Parish Life is not as much as we budgeted for but there

were also expenses not taken from Parish Life that should have been so it looks underutilized and we are getting it more 'in line' with what it should be. Dave believes the Cathedral finances are in "pretty good shape" today and see how they are moving forward. Dave suggested we keep a tight handle on overhead. For example, if we are going to do X, Y, Z and it is not a revenue-producing enterprise we just have to be sure it does not grow exponentially or grow at all. Things are relaxed now but have seen things that are not so relaxed and would like to not go back to that time.

Regarding the Larger Church, Dave would like the diocesan assessment to be reconsidered as 17-18% is a large amount from our business (beyond a biblical 10% tithe).

Discussion points: A laity-led and diocesan parishes might consider having a discussion with the diocese about this amount being adjusted in the future. This could be viewed as an outreach effort and growing churches ministry. Since this money is already going to the larger church, our donations could be directed more locally. The diocesan budget contains this information about where funds are directed. The issue is the assessment is based upon the operating budget amount. A way to bypass this is to allocate funds from trusts to go directly into ministry accounts. Candy McDowell suggested we table this discussion due to 2 motions yet to be considered during this meeting.

Sharon Cheers moved to accept the Financial Report as presented and was seconded by Mike Thomas. The motion passed with no further discussion.

(Dave Barker, Treasurer, departed the meeting at this time.)

Stewardship Report *presented by Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair*

131 pledges totaling \$453,916. Budget is approximately \$456,000. 16 pledges have not been renewed. We have had a successful stewardship campaign. The total number of pledges this year is down by 8 from last year; the total dollar amount is up by approximately \$22,000.

We will need to set a calendar for this year's campaign.

Junior Warden Report *presented by Michael Thomas*

Playground is complete (cost was \$37,063.96) and the new A/C has been ordered and is being stored by the vendor until the choir is ready for us to install in the chapel.

Pews can be taken out (4-5 pews) on north side and detach kneelers and put slides on the feet of the kneelers and see how parishioner like that adjustment before expanding to the rest of the nave. Some suggested recovering the kneelers but that could be a pricey proposition.

Will proceed to address the reredos. The next Buildings and Grounds meeting is May 10.

Rogation Day has not been set yet but the new gardener has been identified and it will be scheduled.

Senior Warden Report *presented by Candy McDowell*

Pre-K Candy presented this motion that was included in the Vestry packet prior to the meeting:

The Executive Committee recommends and Candy McDowell moves that \$5,000.00 be allocated to hire the Meriweather Group to prepare a Pathways Report highlighting requirements, limitations, and

considerations of opening different types of early childhood centers at GHTC. The funds will come from the previous William T. Kemper Jr. grant for Young Adults which has now been released for unrestricted use. The motion was seconded by Sharon Cheers.

Jill Meriweather will be able to begin working on this and preparing the report for Vestry in May and the information can be shared with the Strategic Planning Committee.

Discussion points: Will this report be used to guide Strategic Planning to help us? Jackson County will be in Argus building next to GHTC and this is a point for Strategic Planning to consider as Pre-K options are presented. How does this fit into our mission? What is the cost benefit of a program? Suggested we examine the cost benefit during this process as it would be helpful to know as part of the decision making. Our GHTC mission and costs should be considered—whether growth focus or service or both. Can there be a cost analysis from this consulting endeavor? Candy does not think a cost analysis will be part of the consulting outcome.

This will provide options and ideas about funding sources (tuition, etc.). Will this be Pre-K after school, all day, Headstart similar to private school or public school? We will be able to look at the different options. Spending the \$5,000 will allow us to examine these options without committing to which way we're going.

With no further discussion, the vote was called and the motion passed by a majority vote.

Robin Rusconi and Paula Livingston-Lewis were asked to join Candy and Andy as a part of the task force to continue the exploration of this possible Pre-K programming. Others may be added to this task force as reports are compiled and activity progresses. Also discussed the description of “Cathedral Creche”, a nursery where babies and young children are cared for during the working day. A chronicle of actions and conversations pertaining to this endeavor has been composed by Candy and will be shared with the Vestry in an email.

Vestry Calls Lists and assignments will be distributed on Friday, April 29. Calls to be completed by May 16. Information from these calls will be for photo directory, updates to contact information and pastoral care concerns.

Vestry Liaison Reports

Safety/Security presented by Sharon Cheers via email on 4/21/22

There were a few security incidents to share with you via Cathedral Property Staff.

On April 13, after one of the outside group music rehearsals was over in the evening, a person was discovered hiding in the Founders' building bathroom. The Sexton staff were able to assist the person out of the building.

On Sunday, April 10, after the 5 PM Service was over, two women, who attend the Service, with luggage and backpacks, wanted to stay in the Nave. They later said there were waiting to get some help. They were walking around the Nave, asking about cameras, etc. and approached the Chancel. I was the Altar Guild volunteer. I spoke with them briefly. I contacted the Sexton on Duty and told him the situation.

There are numerous persons seen on Cathedral monitors/cameras, approaching the property, very late at night or wee hours of the mornings. One person in February did attempt to get into lower Founders' by breaking exterior glass door. The glass has since been replaced. In addition, Property Staff are almost daily, cleaning up trash, clothing items, bags, and other debris left on the property.

The Sunday Services and Events Security Coordinator, is Deputy Sheriff, Edward Johnson, Office (816) 514-8017 or Direct at (816) 604-9270. Please feel free to introduce yourself to him and the other Deputy Sheriffs, Dwight Rhodes and MacDonald. I speak with them almost every Sunday and they are very complimentary of the Cathedral and have intervened many times with parking problems and persons needing assistance.

Again, the Downtown Community Improvement District (CID) Safety and Security are available to assist with situations. The CID know that persons go from one location to another location and are trained to interact with houseless persons and situations. They are available to patrol around the Cathedral until 10:30 PM/ 7 days a week. Their time coincides with most Cathedral evening events. They also assist persons to and from their vehicles, can jump start car battery, call roadside assistance, etc. Please NOTE that they are short staffed and/or may be dispatched to other calls for service in the downtown area.

Dispatch number is (816) 820-3475. For any overnight concerns call 911.

NOTE: When calling Downtown Council/Safety or 911, etc. please give the physical address of the Cathedral at **415 West 13th Street**. Julie Toma and Angie Graham are the Cathedral contact persons for safety/security.

Children's Formation *presented by Amy Cornwell via email 4/21/22*

Choir: All is fine; the children have been enjoying their practicing in advance of when they will sing (for the last time before summer) at the May 15th service. As my last report indicated, Linda will be busy this summer with the various opportunities she has at Valparaiso (in-depth children's choir workshop) and as a presenter for the Music & Arts camp this summer at St. Michaels.

Children's Formation: Things are going great; Brittany has been working to secure a "Parent's Night Out" which will be announced soon (if not already); Easter went great with about 30 kids participating; Brittany wanted me to express her thanks to Vestry for its support. And, even more good news, Brittany believes she now has enough volunteers; the parent support has been helpful and as covid lifts the return and participation has increased.

Community Engagement *presented by Ron Michka*

It was suggested a ministry fair or some way to connect volunteers to opportunities to become involved as we return to more in-person activities. We can look at the timeframe of late summer/early fall when school/formation year begins.

As a volunteer with stewardship and budget, Ron voiced concern about 2023 budget as we are living on the surplus from last year which has allowed us to take the reduction in our endowment. He would like us to hear from Dave Barker, treasurer, about what our real budget is going to look like in 2023 once our surplus from 2021 has been spent down. It was suggested we visit it before the end of this year.

Social Outreach presented by Terri Curran via email 4/27/22 after the Vestry met

- 1.) Delivered 136 Easter Baskets to Crittenton, Kaw Valley Children Center, and Sheffield Place
- 2.) Collected 222 lbs. of food during the Lenten Drive
- 3.) Sent an additional \$3,000 to ERD specifically for the Crisis in Ukraine
- 4.) Sent a donation of \$1,000 to Saint Vincent's Center for Children with Disabilities in Haiti
- 5.) The April paper drive for Sheffield Place netted 177 paper product with about 30% being supplemented by outreach funds
- 6.) Outreach will be making 20 Mother's Day Baskets for the women at Sheffield Place
- 7.) Gashland and Clardy Elementary have asked us to deliver backsnacks for summer school during the month of June

No further reports from the committees of **Communications, Young Adult**

Old Business

The motion was included in the Vestry packet prior to the meeting, but after meeting with the Finance Committee, the wording was modified and is as follows:

Candy moved that \$8,000.00 be allocated to enter into a partnership with the William Jewell College Center for Faith and Culture for the Inaugural 2022-2023 Season. Funds to come from the Trinity Fund for Ministry. Bill Colvin seconded the motion.

Discussion Points: (Several of the questions posed by vestry members were answered in emails since the April vestry meeting.) At this meeting, Dean Andy shared there will still be unknowns about this project as it is the inaugural year. William Jewell (WJ) sign ups through the college will have a \$50 fee. GHTC members attending are free. It is a way to engage with other people in the community. WJ's marketing network has a system in place to attract from a wide range of the community. GHTC would be part of the inaugural year of this program. It could bring new people into the church. We should pay attention to the \$50 fee and note if it has a negative effect on the number of people who come through our doors and let WJ know we want to know about that impact. Their theological approach/class content and ours together will be overseen by clergy. Anticipated number of attendees from GHTC probably be less than the number WJ will reach. Frequency and duration of classes and time (1x/week for 4 wks and could be Sunday or Wednesday or whatever we specify most convenient to us). The cost concerns were raised. Options to only do one semester or decline the stipend for our clergy could bring the cost down. The Trinity Fund is for ministry and this is not coming from the operating budget. Operating costs will possibly be additional to the allocated amount paid to WJ due to clean up, preparation time, clergy time. Clergy exposure to a community outside of our own is anticipated. This ministry will possibly get more people to the church than quarterly direct mailings in the community. Holding classes on Sundays during the regular formation time may require additional considerations as hybrid learning with in-person could pose Sunday parking issues when 10:30 worship attendees arrive. Partnering next year rather than this first year would take GHTC out of the inaugural position.

With no further discussion, the vote was called. Of the 10 voting members present, there were 6 in favor, 3 opposed and 1 abstention. The motion carried.

Dean Andy assured members he will be forthcoming with how this project develops and wants input from the vestry to make sure the most benefit is obtained as we gain more details from WJ.

Dean Andy asked if there was any Old Business to address at this time and there was none.

New Business

Candy thanked Dean Andy for his work during Holy Week and Easter—especially his assistance with Altar Guild details. The Easter celebration with Bishop Diane was also mentioned as particularly ‘joyful’ and Canon Ryan is a much appreciated ‘good hire’. Dean Andy thanked volunteers who helped with every aspect of the services.

A question about the planning of Easter flowers in the nave was raised. Because the choir is in the altar area, space for flowers (size, arrangements) is adjusted for now. Once the choir is in the loft, flowers will be adjusted accordingly. Flower offerings have been limited as well.

The choir configuration will change at/around May 8. Volunteers returned to choir rehearsals tonight (4/21/22). Paul is working out the details of moving choir out of the chancel. Once instruments are moved out of the chapel we will go back to communion at the rail.

The next Regular Vestry Meeting will be May 26 at 5:30 p.m. in person. Zoom will still be an option--making it a hybrid format.

Candy McDowell moved to adjourn the meeting. Paula Livingston-Lewis seconded and the motion passed with a majority vote. A closing prayer was led by Dean Andy.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Blanco Johnson, Clerk