

# Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

## Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, January 23, 2025

*To be approved at the February 24, 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, Steve Moore (Sr. Warden), Sharon Cheers, Mathias Nichols, Nigel Jones, Blain Lagergren (Clerk), Valerie Johnson (Jr. Warden)

Via teleconference (Zoom): Pat Decker

Absent: Julie Brogno, Mike Thomas, Paula Livingston-Lewis, Chip Buckner (Treasurer)

Others Present: The Rev. Barbara Wegener (Deacon)(via Zoom)

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 December regular Vestry minutes that were distributed in the January Vestry Packet. A correction to the formatting of the month of the previous meeting's minutes was necessary. Nigel Jones moved to accept the meeting minutes as presented and was seconded by Charles Shipley. The motion passed without further discussion.

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

Dean Andy and the Vestry give thanks and recognition to the outgoing Vestry members: Michael Thomas, Valerie Johnson, Paula Livingston-Lewis, and Sharon Cheers. As well as a reminder to all to serve when and where they are able.

Sara Copeland has officially resigned from the Vestry. Dean Andy reached out to her to express our gratitude for all the work that she has done, both with regard to the Budget Committee and the ministries of the Cathedral as a whole. Sara's departure will not affect Vestry nominations or elections. The Vestry will discuss, possibly via email and acclimation, appointing someone, to complete the remainder of her term and continue serving subsequent terms, at our next meeting, most likely the Vestry retreat.

Upcoming events: Our class with William Jewell began yesterday, January 22, and will continue the next three Wednesday nights. Dean Andy will do a Lenten Meditations class which will also serve as his William Jewell contribution. Diocesan Ordinations will occur January 25, the Annual Meeting January 26, and the Absalom Jones service will be Sunday, February 15 St. Augustine's at 4:00 pm, Episcopal Parish Network will be February 25-28 with a closing Eucharist here at the Cathedral on Thursday, February 27.

Strategic Plan Update: With regard to the amendment of the by-laws, as the changes are not controversial nor voluminous and concerning mainly electronic formats for meetings and notice and the removal of extraneous language concerning the reduction of Vestry size, we have elected to put those changes out to the congregation and potentially approve them via a special meeting. A reformat of the by-laws to increase readability via formatting and TOC inclusion was suggested by Sharon Cheers.

Per the Strategic Plan, SMS texting capabilities no longer exist within REALM, however, we have a subscription with MailChimp that has that functionality, which would require additional capital of \$20-\$40 per month. Another option is Text in Church which is roughly \$400-\$500 per year and St. Andrews uses it, so Julie Toma will be discussing that with her counterpart there.

QR code donation kiosk floor stands are available for an annual cost of \$1100, to include a lanyard for parking payment processing. The presence of the kiosks will allow us a potentially significant additional source of revenue. A total cost analysis will be done prior to any decision by the Vestry to acquire the kiosks and/or lanyard.

We have four standing for Vestry nominations: Steve King, Colin Chambers, Bill Boyd, and Christine Morrison. As such will not need a ballot and will move to accept the nominations by acclamation.

### **Who Should We Thank?**

Dr. Joan Bergstrom for her work on the MLK Evensong Celebration and Sara Copeland for her work on the Vestry and the Budget Committee.

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

The plan is Morning Prayer Monday through Thursday both in person and streamed via Facebook. 9:00 a.m. is the favored time. From the survey, we currently have 3 to 4 officiants in addition to clergy participants. Part of the vision includes Diocesan staff participation and other clergy in the Diocese. We hope to start, at the latest, during Lent.

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

Deacon's Customary provides that the Deacon should be fully on the Vestry and able to give reports and not just at the invitation of the Dean, as such Deacon Barbara will have full voice but no vote at Vestry meetings.

Areas of the Strategic Plan.

Eucharistic Visitors. There has been great difficulty getting the required online training. There will be in-person safe church training April 5, which will be open to the entire Diocese, with lunch provided by us as the hosting parish. There will be two dates at the beginning and end of February (or beginning of March) for assisting those completing online training. There will be a cutoff after the in-person training after which Deacon Barbara and Fr. James will begin the program with those who have completed the training.

Stephen's Ministry. There is only online training. Our goal is to have a group that members can contact in confidence to speak about whatever they want or need. Volunteers are needed from the congregation, as it is not designed to be a one-person ministry, it is designed to be a group ministry.

We, as Vestry, need to get the word out that more volunteers are needed, especially for Holy Hands and Altar Guild.

Outreach and hospitality. While we have liaisons, we need to encourage the congregation to assist Terri Curran in her outreach activities and gain a hands-on opportunity to see what the Cathedral does. Deacon Barbara will be getting a list of the things that Terri physically completes. Daughters of the King will be volunteering to serve at Sheffield Place.

If outreach is a priority for Vestry, then we should have a Vestry member for outreach specifically and a strong committee developed from congregation members.

We should have a Vestry member in charge of hospitality and made a priority in the congregation and at the congregational level. The congregation would develop and manage this fellowship.

Planned monthly events that are the responsibility of the congregation has been partially the domain of the Social Gathering committee, which has been the charge of Julie Brogno, but we need to focus more on that and support her. Trivia night in February is being planned by an informal group at this time.

**December 2024 Financial Report** *presented by Chip Buckner, Treasurer*

Year-to-date expenses.

Month-to-month revenues.

Month-to-month expenses.

Three-month balance sheet analysis.

Chip Buckner was absent, as such Valerie Johnson moved to table acceptance of the December Financial Report and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed without further discussion.

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

Crowell Trust quarterly distribution will be \$24,000 higher than budgeted (\$100,000 higher for the year 2025).

Our budgeted goal for 2025 was \$455,000. We are at \$300,000 currently.

We have received 83 pledges, which is down in number of pledges but we are ahead in total pledges amount. We have average pledges of \$3600. We will be at \$440,000 if everyone renews at the current rate, which is only a little short of what is budgeted for 2025. We still expect O’Hearne estate and Chappell estate bequests.

**Junior Warden Report**, *presented by Valerie Johnson*

Pete’s Garden has received a \$20,000 grant to convert walk-in freezer to walk-in cooler. Valerie will provide them with a letter instructing them to proceed as Buildings and Grounds has approved the work, conditioned on Pete’s Garden establishing accounts so they can be the direct link to services and repairs. We are asking them to be good stewards of the property. They are growing and expanding.

Repairs are needed after intermittent hot water issues in Founders’ Hall, bids for which range from \$11,000 to \$17,000 for total replacement. We need to make the decision and then go to Finance Committee to find that money.

We had sewer backups in basement and have been advised to mill and jet sewer line and to put in a liner which would cost roughly \$20,000.

The Vestry accepted the Junior Warden's Report and approved moving forward with the plan for remediation of above plumbing issues.

Nigel Jones met with another flooring company who said that repair would not be possible without total removal, costing \$40,000. A new floor would cost \$60,000+.

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

The departure of parishioners is concerning to everyone. We need to reverse that trend and while it will not be entirely the Vestry's job, it needs to start with the Vestry. Growth will be the solution to a lot of the problems at the Cathedral while we are doing much good work here. This issue will need to be the focus of the Vestry retreat this year.

There is a need to communicate effectively and transparently to the congregation the opportunities to have a voice and participate in church governance. This is most easily, though not completely, addressed by inviting congregational viewing of and participation with Vestry meetings. We need to communicate early and often regarding meetings and decision making and letting the congregation know that they can participate.

**Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports**

**Dinner with Friends, *Julie Brogno***

**Social Outreach, *Paula Livingston-Lewis***

**Community Engagement, *none***

**Safety/Security, *Sharon Cheers***

**Children's Formation/Young Adults, *Blain Lagergren***

We will no longer be offering the 9:15 a.m. children's formation in favor of our 10:30 a.m. formation as our subscription is too low at that time and in an effort to be respectful of our volunteers' time. Family Worship has been a success in inviting the participation of children in the service as oblation bearers. As of this time, Clare will be departing in June and would like to see a children's component be added to the duties of the position of the Diocesan Youth Missioner and interact more robustly with the Cathedral. We have 5 youth signed up for confirmation classes and Clare has successfully grown the youth ministry from 3 to 13 participants.

**Communications, *none***

**Budget, *none***

**Strategic Plan, *presented by The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse***

**Worship.**

*Worship Services.*

While not making drastic changes to the service, the survey regarding likes and dislikes and suggestions is almost ready to be sent out next week. We are focusing on our three Eucharistic services, our morning prayer initiative, and our evensong services. In progress.

Joan Bergstrom has in place a volunteer recruitment and deployment plan for worship services. Completed and ongoing.

#### *Choirs.*

Handbell choir has been restored. Completed.

Children's choir is being reformatted and organized by Dr. Lucas Fletcher. In progress.

#### *Ministries.*

Restore Stephen Ministry and identify Stephen Ministry mentees still needs to be done. We are still waiting on training. To do.

Grow Children's Ministry. We have hired Director but will need to do so again. Done but will revert to "to do". Communicating activity of Children's Ministry is In Progress.

Establish Outreach Pastoral Ministry. Including transportation, Eucharistic visitors and outreach are in progress.

### **Community Engagement**

#### *Public Forums*

Holding open forums on current events and issues have yet to be done. To do.

#### *Community Social Gatherings*

Host social events for the public and the congregation. We had a first Friday art show. We held Pete's Garden fundraiser the last two years. In progress and to do.

### **Internal Fellowship**

We established a social gathering committee with Julie Brogno starting Foyer Groups and Dinner with Friends. Accomplished and in progress. We need to dovetail with Hospitality. Small group activities include lectionary, online café, and women's bible study. We have held regular informal gatherings, chili cookoffs, game nights.

We need to formalize renewing relationships with prior parishioners. This could track through Pathways project and call ministry. In progress.

### **Service**

One-time hands-on service opportunities. We have done the free store in the past. What we were attempting was larger opportunities, much like Habitat for Humanity, Rogation days, groups to Pete's Garden. In progress.

Long-term hands-on service opportunities. We need to ramp up Social Outreach committee and have these activities on its action item list. Groups and teams based. We have people volunteering at Pete's Garden, NourishKC, St. Paul's Food Pantry, and TEFAP. In progress.

### **Operations**

Cathedral and staff sharing is still to do but that conversation will probably come back up. In progress amid discussions with Dean Amy shadowing Bishop Diane.

Campus Innovation has seen Common Room renovation.

We have fence banners that are generalized enough to re-use as well as banners communicating the belonging and safety are available to all.

Texting we have investigated and have a plan. In progress.

Carillon system is being investigated in terms of replacement with a sound system and actual bells. In progress.

By-laws are in progress and will be presented in first quarter.

### **Additional Discussion**

#### **Old Business**

#### **New Business**

The next Vestry Meeting will be determined at a later date at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room and via teleconference. (EPN 2/27, Retreat)

**Charles Shipley moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Steve Moore. The motion passed.**

A closing prayer was led by Dean Andy. The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Blain Lagergren, Clerk

# Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

## Minutes, Special Meeting of the Vestry on Sunday, January 26, 2025

*To be approved at the February 24, 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, Steve Moore (Sr. Warden), Mathias Nichols, Nigel Jones, Blain Lagergren (Clerk), Julie Brogno, Bill Boyd, Colin Chambers, Steve King, Christine Morrison

### **Vestry Officer Nominations and Appointments**

The Vestry welcomed its newest members: Bill Boyd, Colin Chambers, Steve King, and Christine Morrison.

Dean Andy appointed Steve Moore to serve as the Senior Warden for the 2025 term.

Mathias Nichols moved to nominate Nigel Jones to serve as Junior Warden for the 2025 term. Charles Shipley seconded. The motion passed.

Julie Brogno moved to nominate Chip Buckner to serve as Treasurer for the 2025 term. Christine Morrison seconded. The motion passed.

Nigel Jones moved to nominate Blain Lagergren to serve as Clerk for the 2025 term. Julie Brogno seconded. The motion passed.

The Vestry retreat was scheduled for March 8, 2025.

February's regular Vestry meeting was scheduled for February 24, 2025 with meetings tentatively scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.