

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Thursday, November 21, 2024

Approved at the December 19, 2024 Vestry meeting

Vestry Members and Leadership Present

In-Person: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse (Dean), The Rev. W. James Yazell (Associate Priest), Michael Thomas, Charles Shipley, Steve Moore (Sr. Warden), Nigel Jones, Blain Lagergren (Clerk), Valerie Johnson (Jr. Warden), Sharon Cheers

Via teleconference (Zoom): Patricia Decker, Paula Livingston-Lewis, Mathias Nichols, Sara Copeland, Julie Brogno

Absent:

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 October regular Vestry minutes that were distributed in the November Vestry Packet. Valerie Johnson moved to accept the October meeting minutes as presented and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed without further discussion.

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

Upcoming events: Dean Andy will be blessing the pledges at the Pledge In-gathering this Sunday, November 24. Thanksgiving Day Service will be at 10:00 a.m. on November 28. Advent Decorating will be Saturday, November 30. Our Service of Lessons and Carols will be Sunday, December 15, which is Advent 3 at 5:00 p.m. We are still working on the bylaws. Dean Andy met today with Dr. Lucas Fletcher, and assembled a Music Committee, comprised of Nigel Jones, Diane Barker, John Braum, and Bill McCandless, for over an hour of discussion with Lucas. He is focused and will be a wonderful asset in this position and was very articulate and on the ball with his responses. Lucas' vision for getting children involved begins with introducing children to singing with the actual choir, possible with as few or as many children as may be interested, which may segue into a youth choir. We plan to keep handbells going, increase choir events, music groups, and larger orchestral works such as a requiem. He is interested in networking musical events in the community. Utilizing our University of Kansas connections, as well as with William Jewell. The committee was unanimously in favor of bringing him on as director of music, and Dean Andy with the Vestry's consent will call him to that position. We will fill the associate position vacated but will wait until after the first of the year to begin efforts to fill that position. Lucas will begin the process of having the necessary conversations regarding rehabbing the organ as well as ordering new vestments.

With Lucas' assistance, we will have separate committee for the project of rehabbing the organ, which will not be Buildings and Grounds.

Dean Andy received a phone call from the Dean of Grace cathedral in Topeka, for a pulpit swap for morning services and have tentatively set it for June of 2025.

Strategic Plan Update: We are continuing to work on bylaws, which will be ready prior to the annual meeting.

Budget Committee Charge Update:

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

The William Jewell class finished last Wednesday and the Path continues Sundays. The next project will be establishing Monday to Thursday morning prayer in the chapel and livestreamed. Survey will be sent out to find out times that will work best and the service will be comprised of teams of two to lead, both an officiant and reader. The more involved the more we will be able to accomplish.

Financial Report *presented by Chip Buckner, Treasurer*

We are tabling accepting the Treasurer's report until the next meeting of the Vestry in December. He has communicated his thoughts to the budget committee.

Stewardship Report and Senior Warden Report *presented by Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair*

Pledge numbers are ahead of last year at this time, 56 pledges for a total of \$212,196 which puts us at about 40% of the way to where we want to be. However, we lost congregants who were significant pledgers to moves. Last year in November of 2023 we had 39 pledges for \$131,000. We have seen increases in pledging amounts and continuing to encourage increasing pledge amounts would be the best thing to do.

We continue to work on the bylaws as mentioned by Dean Andy. Of note, our Diocesan Assessment went down for 2025.

Junior Warden Report *presented by Valerie Johnson*

Buildings and Grounds met on Tuesday this week. We identified a part time gardener to help with the grounds as a 1099. Rick has retired and we need to acknowledge and thank him formally. The memorial garden project continues to be worked on and we are planning a communication to members to let them know its happening and considering changes to our landscape. We will probably put together a smaller working group to avoid engaging everyone with every detail, working though it together. Lease for Pete's Garden we are waiting for changes and updates. The Common Room project has finished. In staff meeting it was discussed if current chairs and tables work to avoid additional expenditures for furniture at this time. We do not have final numbers from Ken Stewart on the common room renovation aside from a statement that we were under budget. We are still waiting on treatment for the doors to the Common Room.

We have a potential water issue above tower door and a roofing company has been engaged to find the source of the issue.

The renovated Common Room functioned exceptionally well during the reception for Dr. Paul Meier after Sunday night's Evensong.

Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports

Dinner with Friends, Julie Brogno

We have numbers for two groups this time and information should be sent out soon to establish times.

Social Outreach, Paula Livingston-Lewis

Community Engagement, none

Safety/Security, Sharon Cheers

The Nativity Puppets have started to prepare for the production and performances the first week of December, with rehearsals leading up to that time. Clergy could offer greetings and/or thanks following the performance(s).

Children's Formation/Young Adults, Sara Copeland

Communications, none

Budget, Sara Copeland

Additional Discussion

We have our Advent brochure coming out. The Nichols' open house will be Saturday, December 14 for snacks, drinks, and welcome to the Cathedral community.

Old Business

New Business

In the Letter of Agreement for Dean Andy there is an allowance of \$4800 for mileage reimbursement and that amount may be changed as necessary. Dean Andy has exceeded his limit and the IRS reimbursement rate has gone up. We anticipate increase of \$1000 to mileage reimbursement which will cover the increase. Dean Andy's entertainment budget is \$6000 but his utilization has been roughly 1/10 of that amount, \$600, so the total does not represent an increase across those two funds. The proposal to increase the mileage reimbursement for Dean Andy from \$4800 to \$5800. There is money to cover from entertainment budget, no net increase.

Sharon Cheers moved to increase Dean Andy's mileage reimbursement budget from \$4800 to \$5800. Steve Moore seconded. The motion passed after further discussion.

Who Should We Thank?

Extra thanks for Connie and Ken, Dean Andy having previously thanked the entire Common Room Committee.

The next Vestry Meeting will be December 19, 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room and via teleconference.

Nigel Jones moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Michael Thomas. The motion passed.

A closing prayer was led by Dean Andy. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Blain Lagergren, Clerk