

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

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

Approved at the August 22, 2024 Vestry meeting

Vestry Members and Leadership Present

In-Person: The Rev. W. James Yazell (Associate Priest), Steve Moore (Sr. Warden), Valerie Johnson (Jr. Warden), Charles Shipley, Mike Thomas, Sara Copeland, Chip Buckner (Treasurer), Blain Lagergren (Clerk)

Via teleconference (Zoom): Nigel Jones, Pat Decker

Absent: The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse (Dean), Julie Brogno, Mathias Nichols, Sharon Cheers, Paula Livingston-Lewis

Others Present: Jeff Johnson

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 The Rev. W. James Yazell with opening worship.

Financial Report *presented by Chip Buckner, Treasurer*

Year-to-date revenues. Our actual pledges year to date are 12% under our budgeted figure. Our year to date actual plate offerings are 24% lower than our budgeted figure. A gift received in January more than compensated for those pledge and plate budget shortfalls. Recurring bequests received in May and June totaled roughly \$300,000. User fees, which is mostly parking lot fees, are double what was budgeted. Endowment to operating is as expected year to date. Interfund transfers, which was \$268,000 in covid money put in to the checking account to be transferred into operating account at the rate of \$22,000 per month, which has not happened. Interfund transfers have simply not happened. We have the money but they have not transferred to the operating budget. Which explains why that figure is so much lower than budgeted. Taking covid money out, year-to-date budgeted for revenue and year-to-date actual are very close.

Year-to-date expenses. Community, social ministry, and larger church are right where we expect them to be. Year-to-date we are little bit high on clergy, lay salary, and clergy support; and a little bit low on administration. We are nearly \$34,000 under budget on facility expenses. Utilities expenses are down. Education expenses are way below budgeted. Music expenses are breaking even. Parish life has spent about half of what was expected. Nursery expenses are low.

Month-to-month revenues. On the pledge revenue line January, February, and March are up, April is okay, May and June are down. We had the large bequest in January, and recurring bequests into May-June as expected in the form of the Crowell(sp) Trust annual gift and the WT Kemper Gift. User fees are looking good. Endowment to operating, we continue to get about \$60,000 per month from our investments. Interfund transfers have budgeted about \$22,000 per month and that money has been sitting unused.

Month-to-month expenses. Clergy and lay salary is much higher in June than in May, cannot account for that at this time. Generally we are spending \$170,000 to \$180,000 per month in total expenses.

Three-month balance sheet analysis. Cash accounts/checking accounts are line 10, operating fund in line 1100. Operating fund took a big jump in June due to WT Kemper gift. Large \$649,000 negative number was the result of deposits into money market interest bearing account. The reason it was that much money was for the purpose of covering expenses in addition to the \$60,000 which will put us at \$250,000 insurable limit in checking that will also cover minimum \$50,000 balance and \$10,000 buffer. As of the end of June our investments have grown roughly \$500,000.

Additional items. We moved \$10,000 from Faeth to fund choir trip and we are now moving that money back to music guild fund and back to Faeth.

Steve Moore's comments. May operating cash accounts, pledge, and plate are down. In June we created new line cash accounts to show movement of \$649,000. User fees (parking lot fees) are way up. Interfund transfers were in the checking account and are now in the money market account. June balance without money market at its lowest was \$143,718.96. That says that we are being conservative with the amounts removed to the money market account. We were concerned with investment expectations and wondered why, if set at 4%, is the number different month to month? The answer is that we are getting fixed amount, as well as trust earnings, which differ month to month.

Charles Shipley moved to accept the April, May, and June Financial Reports and was seconded by Sara Copeland. The motion passed without further discussion.

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Blain Lagergren presented the May regular Vestry minutes that were distributed in the July Vestry Packet. Valerie Johnson moved to accept the May meeting minutes as presented and was seconded by Sara Copeland. The motion passed without further discussion.

Dean's Report & Associate's Report, presented by *The Rev. James Yazell on behalf of The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse*

Upcoming events: We have Summer Music at the Cathedral Sundays in August. The Parish breakfast will be Sunday, August 11. Fall planting day will be Sunday, August 25 after the 1030 service. There has been a strategic plan categorization of upcoming events by the staff which will be reflected in the budget requests so that the budget can fit the missional process going forward. The Dietrich Bonhoeffer book study is continuing. There will be an August break before the September 8 start to the formation year with The Path, containing excerpts from the Bible, and moving throughout the whole year.

Strategic Plan Update: n/a

Budget Committee Charge Update: n/a

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

Combined with Dean's Report above.

Stewardship Report presented by *Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair*

No updated numbers as of yet for 2024. The theme of the 2025 campaign will be "Cathedral as Family". Recalling EPN discussions we will be pursuing handwritten letters as part of outreach campaign regarding stewardship. To be completed on August 22 after Vestry meeting, or August 24.

Junior Warden Report *presented by Valerie Johnson*

Largest concerns have been flooding as a result of increased precipitation. Daughters of the King is a women's group that we will be promoting and sharing with everyone at the ministry fair, through announcements, and the Angelus. Communications will be beginning in August, and we will begin discernment process to possibly support a chapter at this Cathedral. Daughters of the King is a rule of life, prayer and service oriented to women encompassing Anglican, Episcopal, ELCA, and Roman Catholic traditions. There was a meeting with Tamara at Pete's Garden, and potential events include a September 20 fundraiser from 6 to 8 pm, where we would raffle items potentially as well as a coffee hour August 25.

Senior Warden Report *presented by Steve Moore*

We conducted the annual review of Dean Andy on June 27. The repayment with interest has been completed for Dean Andy's promissory note. We need to form a committee to review bylaws, which will likely include Mark Galus and others. We prepare for a new program year start. We are experiencing a typical summer time lull in attendance, but otherwise we are progressing positively.

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*

The meeting was rescheduled for August 8.

Communications, *none*

Budget, *Sara Copeland*

Budget request forms went out this week. We are asking for those to be returned September 9. Budget will meet again in the latter part of August. West MO dialogues, which are bishop candidate walk abouts occurring September 16 through 21, will be at Grace and Holy Trinity Thursday, September 19 and at Church of the Redeemer in Parkville Friday, September 20.

Additional Discussion

Old Business

Strategic Plan Update:

Who Should We Thank?

We will be sending thank you notes to Doyle White, Bob Richmond, Mother Karen Schlabach (Diocese of KS).

New Business

Presentation by Jeff Johnson.

We talk about community and pastoral care. It is what we need and what we do. We need deep connections between us. The development of these connections is the business of all of us. We cannot do it alone. Vestry calls are a great effort but they lack continuity, consistency, and background.

We can use of Realm as CRM to support Vestry calls and inter congregation communication. It would support the recording of contact and conversation details. It would support a joint ministry of lay, clergy, and staff. We could make assignments in terms of calls. We could have a service group oriented to calls. And we can always redirect and refer to the appropriate parties, e.g. the Dean or other clergy, in terms of those calls which might need greater privacy or pastoral need.

It would require we upgrade Realm and add users.

Not everyone is called to be comfortable with speaking on the phone and this could be a ministry of people who love to make phone calls, who relish those conversations. And we could all benefit from context for those calls.

We have an opportunity to spend money on aspirational expenses. This would be an investment in relationships within our community and potentially minimal cost financially when compared with those expense which are less aspirational such as floors.

If we want more people to come to church, if we want more people volunteering and just being around, more reach, it would be an investment in those things.

Jeff will explore potential use of Realm and Pathways to create Call Ministry and the costs associated with such.

The next Vestry Meeting will be August 22 at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room and via teleconference.

Michael Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Blain Lagergren. The motion passed.

A closing prayer was led by Fr. James. The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Blain Lagergren, Clerk