

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Regular Meeting of the Vestry on Monday, February 24, 2025

To be approved at the March 27, 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), Nigel Jones, Bill Boyd, Colin Chambers, Christine Morrison, Pat Decker, The Rev. C.J. Duffie (Deacon), Paget Higgins

Via teleconference (Zoom): Blain Lagergren (Clerk), Steve King, Chip Buckner (Treasurer), Julie Brogno, Mathias Nichols

Absent: The Rev. Barbara Wegener (Deacon)

Others Present: Valerie 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 Dean Andy with opening worship.

The Cathedral was notified this morning of the passing of Doyle White. A funeral service is scheduled for Sunday, April 27 at 2:00 p.m.

Approval of previous meeting's minutes

Blain Lagergren presented the January regular Vestry minutes that were distributed in the February Vestry Packet. A correction to the formatting of the month of the previous meeting's minutes was necessary. **Bill Boyd moved to accept the meeting minutes as presented and was seconded by Colin Chambers. The motion passed without further discussion.**

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

Upcoming events: As the host parish for the EPN conference we will be getting some attention so Ken Stewart has put together a display for the bookstore to be in the exhibit hall at the Westin Crown Center. The bookstore will be open Thursday during the Eucharist. EPN conference starts tomorrow with preconference and full conference on Wednesday. We will host the Eucharist here on Thursday. The conference concludes on Friday. Our pancake breakfast will be on Sunday after both morning services. The Mardi Gras Jambalaya dinner will be a week from tomorrow on the 4th. Ash Wednesday will have our usual three services. James will be teaching before the evening service. The following Wednesdays in Lent will be Dean Andy's class with William Jewell on praying the Lenten Gospels and embodying ourselves in the wilderness.

Strategic Plan Update: Bylaws have not advanced at this time but due to the nature of the changes are not being prioritized over other matters.

Who Should We Thank?

Kelsey Leftwich Yazell and Beth Keyse for their work on the trivia evening event. Charles Shipley noted that his team was victorious with assistance from Fr. James.

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

The Path on Sundays continues with The New Testament. There will be an Ash Wednesday workshop on developing a Rule of Life, current spiritual practices, entering into Lent, and give people a chance to think about their spiritual life. That will be 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Ash Wednesday. We are starting Morning Prayer March 6, the day after Ash Wednesday, and just that Thursday. But will begin Monday to Thursday schedule the next week. It will be at 9:00 a.m. both in person and livestreamed via Facebook. Our Daughters of the King chapter will be instituted and its new members admitted during this coming Sunday's 10:30 a.m. service.

Deacon's Report, *The Rev. C.J. Duffie*

Yesterday Deacon C.J. attended conversations at St. Paul's regarding resettlement, immigration, and migration ministries, and the needs of those already resettled, such as food, housing, opportunities, pantry, and clothing. How can we get plugged in? We do not have a Kansas City agency that we work with, so in order to get involved we would need to go through another local agency, such as Catholic Charities or Jewish Vocational Ministries.

The Offering taken up at the EPN Eucharist service will go to Episcopal Migration Ministries.

Financial Report presented by Chip Buckner, Treasurer

December month-to-month revenues.

December pledges were \$6900 below budgeted and year-to-date pledges were \$35,000 below budgeted. Plate offering and gifts & bequest were both acceptable. Recurring bequests were low for December but we received a greater amount in October, and year-to-date was up. User fees were below budgeted for December, though year-to-date was positive. Interest income we had budgeted nothing but gained slightly. We pulled less out of the endowment than we expected. Interfund transfers, the bulk of which was budgeted to ERC and Covid money to be transferred into the operating fund, was not actually transferred, so we transferred less in over the course of the year than we expected. That money is still sitting in the trust account.

December month-to-month expenses.

We have spent less on outreach, more on clergy salaries, and more on lay salaries. Facilities expenses were \$50,000 less than expected year-to-date, but \$15,000 more than expected in December. We spent less than expected on utilities in December but more year-to-date. Our big savings were facilities, education, music, and parish life. We spent \$160,000 more than we brought in over the course of the year, and adding \$10,000 ERC money per month, puts us at a \$41,000 deficit for 2024.

January month-to-month revenues.

Pledges are \$14,000 down, gifts and bequests are \$2000 down, interfund transfers are \$10,000 down, which is what remained of the ERC and Covid money, which is now going to the trust fund.

January month-to-month expenses.

Lay salaries are \$12,000 over budget, administration and general expenses are \$1900 over budget, facility expenses are \$19,000 over budget, and music is \$3581 over budget.

The operating fund went down by 10%. The money market fund is negative as that amount was transferred to an interest-bearing money market account. The property fund is less negative than previously, owing to an inbound transfer of funds. Funds were expended in the outreach and clergy discretionary funds thereby reducing their balances. Expenditures for common room came from the Kemper trusts, both long term and short term. December saw the value of our endowment investments go down from \$17.3 million dollars to \$16.7 million dollars. We moved \$10,000 that was owed to the discretionary accounts. No huge changes in the balance sheet in December.

January severance pay was put in 2024. Both positions paid out of 2025 until it was corrected. Chip could not show us the January balance sheet as Steve Berman could not make the balance sheet balance as of the time of this meeting.

In 2015 we had 56,000 times the CPI, in 2024 we have only 42,000 times the CPI. We have 83% of the spending power that we did 9 years ago. Chip is sending a letter asking our brokers to comment on our investment policies given the degradation of our buying power. Calculating our fees. Propose to ask them to comment on moving from two advisors and custodians to a single advisor.

Nigel Jones moved to accept the December Financial Report and was seconded by Pat Decker. The motion passed without further discussion. The approval of the January Financial Report was delayed until such time as the January balance sheet is presented to the Treasurer.

Audit Approval

The Finance Committee approved the Audit and passed it to the Vestry for its approval.

We received a management letter in which the Auditor stated that they thought we were following management policies. There were certain practices outside of management which the Auditor had some concerns about. There were changes to balance sheet that we were asked to make that Brenda Colburn reviewed and okayed. They noticed the large amount of funds that we had sitting in noninterest bearing accounts and asked us to consider whether that was a good idea. The Auditor looked at our financial statements and believed that they fairly represented what we had done or rather the financial position of the Cathedral. Additional balance sheet entries were requested to be moved. Based on Brenda's recommendation, Chip recommended the Finance Committee approve the Audit. Chip asks us to approve the Audit and direct the adjustment of the balance sheet in accordance with the Auditor's request.

Charles Shipley moved to accept the Audit direct the adjustment of the balance sheet in accordance with the Auditor's request, and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed after brief discussion.

Stewardship Report *presented by Steve Moore, Stewardship Chair*

We currently stand at \$361,000 total pledged from 90 pledges. Our average pledge exceeds \$4000. We still have about \$90,000 outstanding, including a few substantial pledges. We are confident that we will hit our budgeted figure of \$455,000. We have had quite a few returning pledgers as well. Several staff and Vestry members attended a class called Strategies for Congregational Development and it exposed a lot of issues that we are dealing with and we are still gathering data from it. We have a lot of work to do. We need to make Lenten visitors feel welcome and be the welcoming and open church that we know that we are and focusing on vitality and viability.

Junior Warden Report, *presented by Nigel Jones*

We have had several large expenses – water heater replacement in Founders’ and the air conditioning went out a few weeks ago due to an electrical surge. We are repairing the sewer line for the bathrooms in the parish house. We are planning to use Lexington plumbing, the repair will be \$19,500, utilizing a pipe liner solution. The flooring of Founders’ Hall will require a fix that will not be easy or small, either taking up the floor and relaying it, or putting down a new flooring material. We will be getting some proposals next week.

Senior Warden Report, presented by Steve Moore

Incorporated into Stewardship.

Other Committee or Vestry Liaison Reports

Dinner with Friends, Julie Brogno

Social Outreach, none

Community Engagement, none

Safety/Security, none

Children’s Formation/Young Adults, none

Communications, none

Budget, none

Additional Discussion

Old Business

The tap to pay stand and lanyard will be arriving soon. The Text in Church texting system will be arriving soon as well. A group has approached us for a performance of Handel’s Messiah. Do we want to raise money for Singalong Messiah or put that off another year and allow this group to perform this year?

New Business

Sharon Cheers’ car was stolen on a Wednesday. We will be adding an additional camera, and we have added additional signage. We are encouraged to collect anti-theft devices. We are discussing adding additional lighting. We are advised to utilize downtown security to contact police.

The next Vestry Meeting will be March 27 at 5:30 p.m. in the Common Room and via teleconference. Vestry Retreat Saturday, March 8 at 9 a.m.

Bill Boyd moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Paget Higgins. The motion passed.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Blain Lagergren, Clerk

Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral

Minutes, Special Meeting of the Vestry on Saturday, March 8, 2025

To be approved at the March 27, 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

Absent: Paget Higgins

Approval of 2024 Parochial Report

Dean Andy presented the 2024 Parochial Report.

Charles Shipley moved to accept the 2024 Parochial Report and was seconded by Nigel Jones. The motion passed without further discussion.