



**April Vestry Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, April 23, 2024 6 p.m.
Diocesan House Council Room**

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of all the Coast Salish tribes.

Vestry Members Present

Christopher Breunig
Martha Craig
Wayne Duncan
Greg Hamm, Senior Warden
Phil Haas, Junior Warden for Finance
Scott Hulet
Becky Kacel, Diocesan Member
Kristen Kelly
Julia Logan, Junior Warden for Facilities
Justin Mills
Peter Snyder, Junior Warden for Stewardship
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean
Alexandra Thompson
Doug Thorpe
The Rev. Gail Wheatley, Diocesan Member

Vestry Members Absent

Tina Blondino, Diocesan Member
Canon Valerie Reinke, Bishop's Representative

Officers Present

Barbara Erickson, Clerk
Lynne Cobb, Treasurer

Officers Absent

Re Knack, Chancellor

Staff Members Present

Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator

Dean Thomason opened the meeting at 6:00 PM with the land acknowledgment and a prayer with special intentions for Wendy Claire Barrie and her mother. Thank yous were extended for the delicious meal prepared by Justin and Julia. Welcome to The Rev. Gail Wheatley, Diocesan Member.

Approval of Vestry Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the March 19, 2024 minutes as recorded.

OLD BUSINESS

Mutual Ministry Goals

Greg Hamm, Senior Warden handed out a draft version of the 2024 Mutual Ministry Goals. Greg pointed out that these goals are more tactical and practical and focused ensuring we continue making progress. Strategic themes can be connected to the ministry goals as shown in the draft.

Discussion led to:

- a) Item 2. Had previously referred to “campus and deanery” which is inferred, but “Cathedral owned property” may be more inclusive.
- b) “Becoming Beloved Community” should have a hyperlink to provide a definition.
- c) Add Cultivating Diverse Community to #2.

Motion was made to adopt the Mutual Ministry Goals, seconded, and carried with the proposed edits.

Dean Thomason acknowledged with deep gratitude Greg Hamm’s leadership, the junior wardens, Scott Hulet, Christopher Breunig, and all who led the process. A communication plan will be developed to distribute these goals.

Special Projects Update

Dean Thomason reviewed the special project being undertaken.

1. Seed Library. Southeast corner of the nave, is a repurposed library card catalog box. Packets of seeds are available for anyone to take and plant knowing that they are doing Creation Care work.
2. Leffler Garden. The garden area has been cleaned and planted with the hope for the possibility of farm to table meals later this summer.
3. Seattle City Light. The Inflation Reduction Act passed last year which offers up to 30% rebate on project costs to non-profits, including religious organizations, for electrification and renewable energy projects. There will be a forum on May 29 to discuss this program.
4. FEMA grant. Applying for another FEMA security grant. The first grant allowed for bollards, security film on the windows, and lighting.
5. Affordable housing – see page 3.
6. Dean Thomason, Greg Hamm, and former wardens in that age bracket will offer a 20s/30s leadership connect in early June. The 20s/30s Ministry offers a great resource of wisdom and leadership. With no one under 40 currently on the Vestry, this would be an opportunity to meet with them and see how they might be raised up, encouraged, and cultivated into leadership roles. Emily Meeks, Special Projects Coordinator is also involved.

Audit Process Update

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer reported that we are on track to see the 2023 financial review report next month with no surprises. Dean Thomason expressed gratitude for all the hours dedicated to the review by Lynne Cobb and Stephen Eddy, Bookkeeper and Scheduler. Lynne has also uncovered a couple glitches in recordkeeping from the conversion from ACS Financial to QuickBooks during COVID.

Tenant Updates – St. Nicholas

Dean Thomason reported that Gage Academy of Art will be leaving at the end of July, and property manager Chase Silver is actively looking for tenants. There is interest from several entities who would like portions of the space, but no one for 19,000 square feet of space. Loss of income of \$23,000 a month has been included in the 2024 Budget.

Dean Thomason recapped the current financial situation with Seattle Amistad School's outstanding operating expenses. He noted that Amistad requested to audit our documents of these operating expenses. Amistad's 2024 operating expenses have also increased, which they have yet to pay.

Affordable Housing Update

The Landmark Preservation Board, responsible for designating and preserving historical structures, invited Saint Mark's Cathedral to attend their meeting. There are still unknowns that are being reviewed such as 1) Can we restore and preserve the historical parts of the St. Nicholas Building? 2) Availability of \$4 million in historic tax credits from the federal government, which has different requirements for historic preservation than the City of Seattle, and 3) Option of City of Seattle providing the \$4 million as they want the historic preservation of the building to occur. We have land use attorneys, architects and a consultant involved.

Evelyn Thomas Allen, Executive Director of FAME Equity Alliance of Washington, will serve as consultant to help navigate the question of who the communities are that we would serve.

The Most Rev. Melissa Skelton, Bishop Provisional, consented to the proposed lot boundary adjustment between the two parcels owned by St. Mark's Properties LLC, and the Standing Committee concurred.

NEW BUSINESS

Affordable Housing Relational Inventory/Communication Development

Scott Hulet tabled this item until the May Vestry meeting.

2024 Staffing Updates

Dean Thomason shared the separation agreement between Saint Mark's and The Rev. Canon Linzi Stahlecker has been approved. A nation-wide search for a canon priest has begun, and The Rev. Canon Dr. Marda Steedman Sanborn and The Rev. Edie Weller are serving as Interim Pastoral Associates.

Marc Aubertin, Interim Operational Improvement Coordinator, will have his hours increased and his role expanded. As details are still being worked out, no formal announcement will be forthcoming yet.

Voter Registration

Scott Hulet provided status on the Voter Registration Drive that will be held initially at Saint Mark's after the 9 and 11 a.m. services. Discussion took place that the drive would be non-partisan with a goal to register voters, not to promote political parties. St. James Cathedral and First AME are resources as they are experienced with providing this service.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to move forward with the Voter Registration Drive on Sundays.

Bloedel and Cathedral House Window Replacement

Dean Thomason provided background information about the need to visit the replacement of the windows in Bloedel Hall and Cathedral House. Goldfinch Brothers, a reputable local company currently installing windows at Seattle University's Campion Hall, provided the bid. The \$250,000 Bloedel Renovation Fund gift will pay about 63% of the cost. The film to prevent shattering the windows will also be included as

part of the FEMA Grant. The Executive and Finance Committees have recommended the approval of this project.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the spending of \$105,000 for the replacement of the windows in Bloedel Hall and Cathedral House.

Vestry Letter of Support for Ordination—Phillip Lienau

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to sign the Vestry Letter of Support for Ordination to the Priesthood for Phillip Lienau.

Vestry Letter of Support for Ordination—Robert Stevens

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to sign the Vestry Letter of Support for Ordination to the Priesthood for Robert Stevens.

Diocesan Grant for Expanded Mic System in Nave

A grant was written to and received from the Diocese of Olympia to help purchase an expanded mic system that will allow multiple mics to be available to the speakers without passing a single mic around as well as an updated receiver that accommodates eight microphones at a time. The cost of the new mic system will be covered in part by this grant and the remainder will be paid through the Memorial Fund.

Calvin Institute Grant—Cathedral as Pilgrimage

This is a worship and liturgy grant for \$25,000 that will make the cathedral space available during the weekday for six weeks in the summer to the community. Six self-guided tours will be unveiled on Cathedral Day and art exhibits will also be included this summer.

Center for Spirituality and Action Update

Repurpose of the second and third floors of Leffler House for the center. 20 people are involved with the development of curriculum, directed retreats, and spiritual direction – action oriented in forming an intentional community with regular gatherings both in-person and virtual.

Julie Speidel Sculpture Gift on Front Lawn

Dean Thomason reported that Julie Speidel, the artist who designed our baptismal font, has gifted to Saint Mark's the Otemma Glacier installation, a part of her glacial erratic series – three-stainless steel sculptures. \$20,000 will be needed for concrete work, to transport the sculpture from Vashon Island to Saint Mark's, and to secure it from theft. There is a sealant coating on the pieces to prevent permanent damage from graffiti.

Capital Campaign Planning

Status on the planning for the capital campaign was provided by Dean Thomason. Three different consultants have been interviewed and the name of the selected consultant firm will be announced in May or June. To meet our goal of being net carbon neutral by 2030, a capital campaign is needed. Timeline: feasibility study in fall 2024, capital campaign in the first half of 2025, groundbreaking in 2028, and completion in 2029.

Cathedral Day April 27

Dean Thomason reminded all that Saturday, April 27 is Cathedral Day. With an anticipation of about 600 attendees, including 120 being confirmed or received from around the Diocese of Olympia. If you are attending, you are requested to park off campus.

Dean Thomason's Ordination — 20th Anniversary

Dean Thomason excused himself for this discussion. Greg Hamm, Senior Warden, shared that Dean Thomason was ordained to the priesthood on June 26, 2004, and a celebration will take place on Sunday, June 23. The following resolution was put forth: “In recognition of Steve Thomason’s 20 years in ministry, and in gratitude for his 12 years of service as Dean of St. Mark’s Cathedral, the Vestry invite donations in Steve’s honor from the congregation to the Cathedral’s Threshold Fund, which was established in 2018 to assist families and individuals in accessing safe and secure housing.”

A motion was made to adopt Resolution #24-GO-03 honoring Dean Thomason. It was seconded and passed.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Dean

- Review of upcoming events dates
- Three important forums:
 - May 22 – “A Cathedral’s Complicity in Redlining and Restrictive Covenants”
 - May 29 – “Let There Be Light”
 - June 5 – Affordable Housing updates
- June 15 – Ordinations to the Priesthood, including Phillip Lienau and Robert Stevens
- Banner Bank loan is being paid down monthly
- The Lowell Elementary student body is 25% unhoused children and principal school for “medically fragile” students; 30 languages now spoken as it is the primary school for refugee children (families seeking asylum); clinic run by Children’s Hospital and Odessa Brown Clinic and a resource center with food and clothing. Because the children are housed in Seattle at Mary’s Place, Lowell is becoming “a community resource center that includes a school.”
- Diocesan House is undergoing renovations beginning in May and continuing through the summer months. The Vestry meetings will require a different location. Leffler House and Bloedel Hall are not available, and the mezzanine level at the St. Nicholas Building, with three flights of stairs, and presents an accessibility issue. Via Zoom may be the best option.
- Files of Note
 - Photos of Stained-Glass Window Restoration, before and after

Senior Warden

Thoughts to share about the staffing changes that have occurred. Vestry can help “hold the frequency,” be visible, wear name tags, and make a little more effort to engage people. This applies to the staff as well as they are also feeling the changes. Thank the staff whenever you can, and help our community move through these changes.

MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

Phil Haas. No minutes because the meeting was on April 22. Lynne reported that there are no major surprises in the financial report.

Facilities

Julia Logan. Lambert House is ready to move in on May 1. The emergency plan is inching to fruition, and everyone is asked not to move emergency equipment from one location to another. This equipment is identified for specific places and if moved, will not be easily accessible in the event of an emergency.

Stewardship

Peter Snyder. Stewardship will focus on being 1) a spiritual practice and 2) year-round. May 1 joint forum with Creation Care on “Stewardship as a Spiritual Practice.”

Creation Care

Doug Thorpe. Planning meeting tying Creation Care to the Pilgrimage theme. Pilgrimages throughout Seattle to visit parks and see the trees.

Intergenerational

Martha Craig. 1) explore intergenerational ministry together on May 9 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2) May 15 evening forum which will build on the conversation from May 9, and 3) Intergenerational Ministry will continue the pilgrimage theme through *Eat! Play! Love!*, which is scheduled for August 23 from 5 – 8 p.m. and August 24 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Restorative Justice

Scott Hulet. Upcoming events: May 22 Wednesday evening forum titled “A Cathedral’s Complicity in Redlining and Restrictive Covenants”; Liz Shea is leading a guided tour of the Central District on May 18 from 3 – 5 p.m. using an app by History Link; Debie Thomas, St. Mark’s, Palo Alto will speak on lament and hope on November 9 and will preach on November 10.

CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER

Checkouts were given, and the closing prayer was given by Peter Snyder. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson
Clerk

Erik Donner
Cathedral Administrator

Dates/Events of Note

4/27	Cathedral Day
5/12	Linzi Stahlecker’s last day
5/18	Election of diocesan bishop (in Cathedral nave)
5/19	Pentecost with Baptisms
6/15	Ordinations to the Priesthood