



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

**August Vestry Meeting
Minutes**

**Tuesday, August 22, 2023 6pm
Diocesan House Council Room
Dinner hosts: Lynne & Wayne**

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

Tina Blondino, Diocesan Member (Zoom)
The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison, Bishop's Representative
Wayne Duncan
Greg Hamm, Junior Warden
Scott Hulet, Senior Warden
Kristen Kelly
Scott Kovacs, Junior Warden
Justin Mills
Kathy Minsch
Chris Rigos, Junior Warden
Peter Snyder
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean
Alexandra Thompson

Vestry Members Absent

Carmen Brady
Becky Kacel, Diocesan Member
Katie Prettyman, Diocesan Member
Doug Thorpe

Officers Present

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer
Barbara Erickson, Clerk
Re Knack, Chancellor

Staff Members Present

Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator
The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty, Canon for Engagement & Connection
Emily Meeks, Special Projects Coordinator

Dean Thomason opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgement and a prayer at 6:00 PM.

Approval of May 23 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the June 27, 2023 minutes as proposed.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the July 25, 2023 minutes as proposed.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

CASTING NEW VISION FOR LEFFLER HOUSE AND CARRIAGE HOUSE

The Rev. Canon Jennifer Daugherty presented the proposal of Leffler House and Carriage House becoming the Center for Spirituality and Action. This concept results from 1) desire for spiritual growth and contemplative practices, 2) social justice work is only sustainable when grounded in spiritual life, and 3) opportunity to reimagine the campus assets of these two houses.

- House of prayer and learning, spiritual reflection, and retreat – Umbrella for existing programs, connected with Faith Formation activities
- Rhythm of spiritual practices and partnerships
- Connects to actions – Action part where community service and people moving deeper into spiritual lives be supported through this Center.

The Vestry was then asked for their thoughts on this vision. Feedback on the overall concept was positive.

Dean Thomason then shared that Lambert House – day respite and support for unhoused and LGBTQ+ youth – is currently experiencing structural repairs to their building. They need an interim place to meet, and referencing the action component of the Center for Spirituality vision could allow Carriage House to be the interim location for Lambert House for the next two years. The Leffler House kitchen and the first floor could be reserved for their daily meal; the space would be needed from 3:30 to 9:30 p.m. during the week. Discussion was held and concerns about the current groups' usage of the space were allayed for now.

A motion, for the record, was made, seconded, and carried that the Vestry encourages the pursuit of the relationship with Lambert House and supports the move in on January 2, 2024.

The third part of stewardship of Leffler House relates to the work by the Emergency and Security Response Committee, regarding the benefit of having an on-site caretaker and security manager residing in the house. The Department of Revenue states that tax exempt status for the property is not at risk if the housing is included in the employee's compensation. Chancellor Re Knack is reviewing the contract.

Special Projects Update

Emily Meeks reported on grants and special projects.

- Interfaith Power and Light – a potential opportunity to fund the replacement of Cathedral House windows with a more energy efficient option. The \$200,000 grant is from a program in the Department of Energy called Renew America's Nonprofits. Saint Mark's has completed the initial survey requirement and received favorable review with notification of grant next steps in October.
- Affordable Housing – Trinity Church Wall Street expanded Saint Mark's initial grant opportunity from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Saint Mark's expects to be notified of the grant award outcome later in September.
- New Episcopal Community Grant – submitted an application for a potential \$5,000 discernment grant to support the work of the Center for Spirituality and Action. The grant creates opportunities for communities looking to discern new forms of church community.
- Diocese Global Missions – This potential grant of up to \$5,000 would support the Arab Evangelical Home and School in Ramallah. It is due in September pending Vestry approval.
- Christian Century – \$ 25,000 potential to focus on renewed experiences of worship through creativity, theological integrity and relevance with an intergenerational focus.
- UCC Mission Grant – Working with Chris Rigos and the Meal Sharing Program to expand offerings to Tent City 3. Grant potential is \$25,000.
- Max Dreyfus Grant – a potential \$20,000 grant that would replace hearing assist devices and update microphones. The grant has a focus on cultural and arts performances with connections to seniors and persons with disabilities.
- AV Project Coordination – research and vendor outreach to identify root causes for the buzz in the nave. Five different vendors have different opinions and vision but the common thread is being able to reorganize and streamline the video booth, centralizing the equipment into one place. Also looking at ways to launch and support AV ministry team.

OLD BUSINESS

Affordable Housing Update

Emily Meeks reported on the architect's studies for the conceptualized changes to the building. Trinity Church Wall Street visited Saint Mark's today (August 22) and were impressed with the space and our good stewardship of property. The committee is looking at different models of affordable housing, different populations who could be residents, levels of incomes, and how to structure the ownership of property to maintain some measure of control.

Affordable Housing Parish Forums

The Wednesday, September 13 forum will be a comprehensive forum, while the Sunday, September 24 forum will be more of a conversational Q & A format. Dean Thomason encouraged the Vestry members to attend these forums if their schedule permits. Reminder that no decisions have been made and that this will be a Vestry decision.

Strategic Planning Process

Alexandra Thompson reported that the Strategic Planning Committee launched its first meeting in July. The Committee will be using a "Sources of Transformation" model to help inform the planning. Following the July meeting, the Committee spent time reviewing the 2020 Strategic Plan to consider the work that has been done, what may still be a priority and what may no longer be a priority in a post-pandemic church. The August meeting will focus on the trends and observations from the Committee and how they may inform some of the next steps. Alexandra and Emily Meeks are co-chairs and will provide ongoing updates of the Committee's work.

Emergency Response Planning

Scott Kovacs reported that the information gathering is complete as the group has met with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency, who completed their assessment of our technology and provided recommendations. September will begin the revising of the document itself, including new information from the North Capitol Hill Emergency Hub. DSMR (Digital Spectrum Modulation) radio usage will be a major piece of the communication network.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Resolution for Executive Committee

An Executive Committee consisting of the Dean and Wardens has always been in place, but an annual authorization for the Executive Committee was last done in 2007. Resolution #23-GO-04 designates an Executive Committee consisting of the Wardens and Dean and allows the Executive Committee to exercise authority of the Vestry.

A motion to approve Resolution #23-GO-04 was made, seconded, and carried.

Leffler Roof Replacement

Dean Thomason reported that earlier this summer, work was done on Leffler House's roof in conjunction with the Bloedel Hall and St. Nicholas Building roof work and it was identified that the shingles need to be replaced. Property Manager Chase Silver obtained two bids, both use shingles with a new carbon reducing technology. Integrity Roofing & Construction's bid was accepted and will cost approximately \$33,000.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to retain Integrity Roofing to replace the Leffler House roof at a cost of approximately \$33,000.

Stained Glass Restoration Project

There is a stained glass window from the second Saint Mark's location (Broadway and Union in First Hill) that has been kept in the crypt. It is an archival piece of history and has been damaged during storage. Seattle Stained Glass can restore it for \$15,000, and it would be paid from the Memorial Fund. **A motion was made, seconded, and carried to authorize \$15,000 to restore the stained glass window.**

Restorative Justice Retreat Sept. 9

Dean Thomason reminded all that the September 9 restorative justice retreat will be in Bloedel Hall from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The Rev. Canon Britt Olson, vicar of St. Luke's, Seattle, will facilitate the retreat.

Letter of Support for Ordination of Lisa Graumlich as Deacon

Dean Thomason provided the background that Lisa Graumlich is sponsored by Saint Mark's Cathedral and that she is currently serving her internship at Trinity, Seattle, and will be ordained a vocational deacon at Saint Mark's on October 7, 2023.

The motion was made and carried to authorize the letter of support for Lisa Graumlich to be ordained a Vocational Deacon.

Letter of Support for Ordination of Robert Stevens as Transitional Deacon

Dean Thomason reported that Robert Stevens will be ordained a Transitional Deacon at Saint Mark's on December 9, 2023, and a priest in June 2024.

A motion was made and carried to authorize the letter of support for Robert Stevens to be ordained a Transitional Deacon.

Mold Mitigation-St. Nicholas

The spring 2023 water damage repair at the St. Nicholas Building required inspection. Mold was found, and the mitigation is estimated to be \$50,000 to \$60,000. Concerns expressed about the expenses of maintaining the building. Cost estimation for keeping and restoring it vs. demolishing is being done by the Affordable Housing Exploratory Committee, and the Finance Committee is monitoring closely.

9am Liturgy Change to Land Acknowledgement

Dean Thomason discussed an upcoming change to the 9:00 a.m. liturgy this Fall. Rather than being read as a statement before the service, the modified land acknowledgment will be included as part of a prayer in the opening collect. Discussion was had regarding the modifications to the land acknowledgment as well as the intention going forward.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Senior Warden

- Gratefulness to serve with all, including the Facilities Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Affordable Housing Exploratory Committee.
- Thank you to those who served two Sunday meals to Tent City 3; the meaningful experiences as a result of being with our guests and the stories shared.
- Thank you to Chris Rigos for his leadership with the Meal Sharing Ministry.

Dean

- Bishop Moral, Episcopal Diocese of the Southern Philippines (EDSP), will be guest preacher at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services on September 24.
- The Rev. Fadi Diab, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ramallah, Palestine: grateful for the welcome and looks forward to deepening the relationship. Raising funds for a heating system at orphanage and preschool.
- 2023-24 Wisdom School brochure going out later this week, curriculum focused on "Spirituality of Place."
- August 20 forum on 2024 Ireland pilgrimage resulted in 18 of 30 spots filled.
- "Convvene 2023" – diocesan workshop day in Everett on September 30; two potential workshops proposed, waiting to hear.

- Nave lighting project underway, organ gallery and Compline areas have new lighting. Placing order this week for the rest of the nave lighting. Discovered a Seattle City Light \$26,000 rebate.
- Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 10, 2023.
- Files of note
 - COTAP's carbon offsets report
 - Thank you notes—Duwamish Tribe (Real Rent), Lynne Markova (seminarian support)

Ministry/Committee Reports

- **Worship & Prayer**
Liturgical minister training on September 23.
- **Finance**
Efforts to reach out to pledgers to remain current on their pledge has had a good response; a downturn in pledges has resulted in an adjustment to the forecast for year-end. Affordable Housing tab replaces Seattle Service Corps tab on the monthly financial spreadsheet.
- **Facilities**
Trees and emergency kits are Scott's life. August 13 active shooter talk after 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services received positive feedback.
- **Creation Care**
There was no meeting in July and an in-person social picnic was held in August.
- **Intergenerational Council**
Activities: bike riding, lawn bowling, and Eat! Play! Love!
- **Communications**
July meeting was another learning opportunity with The Rev. Canon Jennifer Daughtery and Greg Bloch. Topics were the history of the cathedral, social media, meeting with Josh Hornbeck about communications within the Diocese of Olympia and interfaces with Saint Mark's.
- **Diocese of Olympia**
Congregational development; supporting the diocese during bishop transition; ratify budget.
- **Stewardship**
The theme for the 2024 stewardship campaign is "Pilgrims Together: Moving Forward in Faith" and begins October 1. Gratitude conversations starting in the newsletter, need speakers, positive in all ways.

Reflection: Mutual Ministry Annual Review

- Affordable Housing
- Grants and windows
- Repurposing of Leffler House and Carriage House
- Land Acknowledgment
- Lambert House

CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER

Checkouts were given, and the closing prayer was given by Greg Hamm. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson
Clerk

Erik Donner
Cathedral Administrator

Dates/Events of note

8/24-25 Eat, Play, Love
9/9 Restorative Justice Retreat
9/10 Ministry Fair
9/24 Special Guest—Bishop Ernie Moral, Diocese of So. Philippines
9/30 Convene Diocesan Workshop Day