



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

**December Vestry Meeting
Minutes**

**Tuesday, December 3, 2024 6pm
St. Nicholas Building Room 102
Dinner hosts: Erik**

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)
Christopher Breunig
Martha Craig
Wayne Duncan
Phil Haas, Junior Warden for Finance
Greg Hamm, Senior Warden
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

Canon Valerie Reinke, Bishop's Representative

Officers Present

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

Staff Members Present

Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator
The Rev. Canon Emily Griffin, Canon Vicar

Guests

Alison Estep, Seminarian Intern

Dean Thomason opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgement and a prayer at 6:00 p.m. Thank you to Erik Donner for dinner and Kathy Thomason for cookies.

Approval of Vestry Meeting Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the October 22, 2024 minutes as published.

OLD BUSINESS

Affordable Housing Update

Dean Thomason reported that we continue to work with consultant Tory Laughlin Taylor, particularly around community engagement with the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) community.

Proposed Rezoning Ordinance

The City of Seattle has proposed a rezoning ordinance that creates an “upzone” area extending from south of Capitol Hill and encompasses this area of 10th Avenue which opens up greater latitude with the zoning possibilities – we are still in an area zoned for single family residences.

Mutual Ministry Review

The review will be addressed in the Executive Session with a report to be presented at the Annual Meeting in January.

Stewardship Update

Peter Snyder reported the numbers are encouraging: 391 pledges for about 1.8 million dollars; \$59,000 in new pledges; \$187,000 in net change in pledges that were decreased. Dean Thomason expressed gratitude for the stewardship committee and everyone who was faithful in making their financial commitment for 2025. The highlight of the campaign is we are \$200,000 net positive which equates to a 10% increase.

2025 Budget

The Finance Committee recommends adoption of the 2025 budget that has a net increase of \$150,000 and a projected loss of \$49,000. This falls within a 1% margin of error which can be managed.

A motion to adopt the 2025 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee was made and approved.

Capital Campaign

1. Feasibility Study Results for Capital Campaign.

Dean Thomason reviewed the results of the study led by Marc Rieke. 130 households participated in the survey with 87% saying they support conducting a capital campaign. 85% feel they know enough about Saint Mark’s to consider a financial commitment to a capital campaign. Given the results and the explicit exclusions, a potential \$5 million campaign is conservative estimate for the cathedral parish, but with diocesan and broader community support, it is anticipated that a campaign in the range of \$8.5 million is in order. Prioritization of projects revolved around carbon reduction, the nave floor replacement, the HVAC replacement, the narthex and bathroom replacement, and growing the music endowment.

2. Pre-design Update

Dean Thomason reviewed the three different options and the associated costs possible for the nave and the narthex. It was also mentioned that Paul Fritts was interested in gifting Saint Mark’s with a Renaissance organ with the structural support being the responsibility of Saint Mark’s Cathedral.

3. Campaign Scope and Size

Dean Thomason emphasized the goal for the evening was to select an option within our comfort zone which would enable work to begin on campaign material in February. Three different options were introduced and discussed. **After much discussion, the general assent was to move forward with Option 1 (\$8.5M) which includes replacing the HVAC systems for the Cathedral Nave and for Cathedral House/Bloedel, the narthex remodel, music endowment, compline choir stalls, and the Renaissance organ and allows prioritization of the work dependent on the Capital Campaign.**

Vestry Resignation—Filling One-Year Position

It was announced that Doug Thorpe will resign at the end of this year term, with one year remaining. After discussion, it was decided that the vacancy will be filled at the Annual Meeting. After the votes are tallied for the four new vestry members, the person with the next highest vote will fill the vacancy.

A motion to appoint the person with the fifth highest number of votes at the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting to fill the one-year, unexpired term was made, seconded, and approved by the Vestry.

Nominating Committee Update

Scott Hulet announced that a full slate of candidates for the vestry and 11 of 12 convention delegates have been identified. The history of the double slate was shared and pros and cons discussed. No changes will be made.

Banner Bank Loan Payoff

Dean Thomason reported that the loan from Banner Bank has been paid in full.

NEW BUSINESS

Front Terrace Water Intrusion Issues

The Executive Committee is recommending the approval of sealing endeavors for the front terrace water intrusions presented by Seattle Foundation Repair for approximately \$28,000.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed approving the Executive Committee's recommendation for the water intrusion repairs to the front terrace.

Tree Pruning on Campus

Dean Thomason shared the findings of the consultant from Advanced Arboricultural Assessment. Four diseased trees will be removed and all other trees identified as needing trimming will cost \$15,493. The Executive Committee recommends the approval of this work.

A motion was made to proceed with the removal of the diseased trees and trimming of all other trees, seconded, and passed.

Sanctuary Network

Dean Thomason led the discussion with history about our relationship with the Sanctuary Network and the housing of an undocumented family for three years in the living quarters on campus. We will maintain our relationship with the Sanctuary Network and the Rev. Canon Emily Griffin will be the lead with our sanctuary response and has already attended training for Rapid Response and is in touch with the Church Council of Greater Seattle who are reaching out to the churches who have been involved in the past.

A motion to approve setting aside space on campus for sanctuary housing was made, seconded, and passed.

Global Mission Grant.

Dean Thomason reported that the 2025 Diocese of Olympia Global Mission Grants is accepting applications and this year, a \$7,000 grant for the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre satellite unit in Gaza for children with orthopedic injuries and for rehabilitation from injuries sustained in the war will be requested through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to endorse putting forth an application for \$7,000 through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem for the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre satellite unit in Gaza.

Clergy Housing Allowance Resolution

Dean Thomason presented Vestry Resolution #24-FI-05 to permit Emily Griffin and Richard Weyls to exclude their housing allowances per the Internal Revenue Code Section 107.

The Vestry Resolution, #24-FI-05 for "housing allowance" for Emily Griffin and Richard Weyls in 2025 was approved after a motion was made, seconded, and passed.

2025 Vestry Calendar

Dean Thomason noted that the Vestry Calendar for the 2025-26 term could be found in the Vestry Dropbox. Vestry meetings are scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of the month with a couple exceptions. **A motion was made to approve the Vestry Calendar for the 2025-2026 term, seconded, and approved.**

Annual Meeting

Dean Thomason led a discussion about electronic voting at the Annual Meeting. In the past, electronic voting was an option for members attending the meeting via livestream, while paper ballots were used by those voting onsite. It has been recommended that voting for the 2025 Annual Meeting be in person and with paper ballots only. A proposal was also put forth to call the annual meeting to order at the 8 a.m. service, open the floor for nominations and voting would take place in the Narthex using paper ballots only.

A motion was made to remove the virtual voting process for attendees via livestream at the annual meetings going forward was seconded and passed.

A motion to change the election rules to call the Annual Meeting to order at the 8 a.m. service, put forward any candidates nominated from the floor, and permit voting across the services until the early afternoon was made, seconded and passed.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Dean

- Acknowledged our new bishop for the Diocese of Olympia, The Rt. Rev. Philip N. LaBelle and the new presiding bishop, The Most Rev. Sean Rowe.
- Reviewed the dates and events of note listed below.
- Prayers and peace for Robert Thomason, Steve's father, and everyone caring for him in Little Rock, AZ.
 - Files of Note—COTAP Carbon offset report
 - Thank You Letters—Bishop LaBelle, Japanese Buddhist Temple

MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Intergenerational Council—Alexandra Thompson shared the Accessibility Task Force is looking for members who would be interested in opportunities to improve the physical campus, worship and ministry experience for those with disabilities.
- Creation Care—Doug Thorpe reminded all that his winter solstice poetry reading forum is on Sunday December 15. Marjorie Ringness and Kathy Minsch long-time leader of Creation Care are stepping away and the committee is seeking steering committee members.
- Restorative Justice Council—The Wednesday evening forum on December 4 will be a collaboration of various housing and hunger ministries in the area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION OF VESTRY

The Vestry moved into Executive Session and the staff, the clerk, and the dean were dismissed. **The vestry unanimously approved an appreciation bonus for the clergy, staff, and Dean Thomason.**

The closing prayer was given by Doug Thorpe. The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson
Clerk

Erik Donner
Cathedral Administrator

Dates/Events of note

- 12/18 Pageant of the Nativity, 7pm
- 12/22 The Longest Night service, 7pm
- 12/24 Christmas Eve, 4pm, 7:30pm, 11pm
- 12/25 Christmas Day, 10am
- 12/31 Labyrinth Walk, 6pm-12am, Eucharist at Midnight
- 1/5 Epiphany Lessons and Carols, 4:30pm, followed by Burning of Greens and Chili Supper
- 1/26 Annual Parish Meeting
- 1/27 Vestry New Member Orientation
- 2/1 Vestry Retreat
- 2/8 Capital Campaign organizing meeting