



December Vestry Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, December 9, 2025 6 p.m.  
Diocesan House  
Dinner hosts: Lynne & Sarah

*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 (Zoom)  
Martha Craig  
Phil Haas, Junior Warden for Finance  
Greg Hamm, Senior Warden  
Sam Herring  
Hannah Hochkeppel (Zoom)  
Julia Logan, Junior Warden for Facilities  
Mark Lundquist  
Sarah McCord  
Peter Snyder, Junior Warden for Stewardship (Zoom)  
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean (Zoom)  
Alexandra Thompson  
The Rev. Gail Wheatley, Diocesan Member (Zoom)

**Vestry Members Absent**

Becky Kacel, Diocesan Member  
Deborah Person

**Officers Present**

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer  
Barbara Erickson, Clerk  
Re Knack, Chancellor (Zoom)

**Staff Members Present**

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

Greg Hamm, Senior Warden, began the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with the Land Acknowledgement. Dean Thomason, recovering from knee surgery and attending via Zoom, and led the opening prayer. A thank you was expressed to Lynne Cobb and Sarah McCord for preparing our evening meal.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**The motion to adopt the November 18 Vestry Meeting minutes was made, seconded and passed unanimously.**

**STRATEGIC CONVERSATION**

**Proposed 2026 Budget.** Dean Thomason introduced the 2026 Draft Budget that had been reviewed by our treasurer, our subdean, the accountant as well as the Finance Committee who recommend the budget be adopted. Dean Thomason reviewed the highlights of the cathedral and the St Nicholas building operating budgets. He also expressed his gratitude to Senior Accountant Barbara Kelley, Subdean Marc Aubertin, Treasurer Lynne Cobb, and the staff for their assistance in preparing a clear and easy-to-understand budget.

**A motion to adopt the 2026 Budget was passed.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Affordable Housing Updates**

Dean Thomason gave an update on the Affordable Housing project, highlighting the ongoing work with guidance from Redwood; Re Knack, Greg Hamm, Scott Kovacs, John Hoester, along with Tory Laughlin-Taylor and himself are actively engaged with the architect on the preliminary designs. A special Cathedral Commons Forum planned for Wednesday, December 10 to share more details. With the help of Uncommon Bridges, a consulting firm retained by Redwood, the community engagement aspect will begin in earnest at the beginning of the new year. Bethany Hoy is the lead of the Affordable Housing Community Engagement Committee working with Karen Allman, Scott Kovacs, Stone Fennell, John Hoerster and the Dean. The groundwork for the initial small board for the Community-Based Organization (CBO) and the Third Place area of the project is being laid.

### **Capital Campaign**

Dean Thomason reported the work on the Capital Campaign continues with several more pledges and gifts still arriving. To date, 500 pledges amounting to \$8.2 million have been made.

### **Greenbelt Trees and Ivy**

Chancellor Re Knack reported that the arborists have been working and have completed the ivy removal which will allow for inspection and the assessment of the health of the trees to determine the next steps.

### **NW Nave Prayer Space**

Dean Thomason reported that with the assistance of our Habitat for Humanity's team, the northwest corner of the Nave has been transformed into a prayer space which includes a 1897 small altar from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Port Townsend; 1891 Brass Cross from the first St. Mark's; two 1898 stained glass windows from the second St. Mark's; and the 1931 Modesty Panels from the third Saint Mark's, the Cathedral. A new votive candle stand is being ordered as well as a video will announce this new space to the parish.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Diocesan Member of the Vestry**

Dean Thomason expressed gratitude to Becky Kacel for her three-year term on the vestry. He presented two candidates for Diocesan Members of the vestry: Cynthia Stelle, St. John's Gig Harbor for the new three-year term, and Michael Monnikendam, St. John's Kirkland, for the unexpired two-year term. The dean has secured the consent of Bishop LaBelle for these two candidates should the vestry approve.

**A motion was made, seconded and passed to appoint Cynthia Stelle to a three-year term and Michael Monnikendam to a two-year term as Diocesan Members of the vestry.**

### **Global Missions Grant Application**

Dean Thomason shared that an application for a grant from the Global Missions Grant, Diocese of Olympia, was submitted for the sum of \$7,500. The grant will help furnish the initial 200 rooms in the girls' dormitory at the St. Mary's High School, Diocese of Aweil, in South Sudan and in partnership with Sudan Sunrise.

**A motion to endorse the Global Missions Grant application to the Diocese of Olympia was made, seconded and unanimously carried.**

#### **Designating Surplus St. Nicholas Operating Revenue for CBO**

Dean Thomason stated that surplus revenue from St. Nicholas has been accumulating in a "rainy day" fund. The Affordable Housing Project will have expenses that will fall to Saint Mark's for the CBO. The proposal is for the vestry to designate at year-end for the next three years any money left in the St. Nicholas operating revenue will be restricted on the balance sheet for the benefit of the CBO. Both the Executive and Finance Committees are supportive of the proposal.

**A motion to authorize the vestry designation of St. Nicholas Building surplus funds at year-end for the next three years was made, seconded and passed.**

#### **Notice of Release from Ministry – Keith Dorwick**

Dean Thomason shared on an FYI basis a notification from The Rt. Rev. Philip N. LaBelle regarding the release and removal of the Rev. Keith Dorwick from the Ordained Ministry of the Episcopal Church for Causes that do not affect his moral character.

#### **2025 Threshold Fund Report**

Dean Thomason reported that the Threshold Fund was able to assist 18 families including a couple living in their car who were moved into safe housing. More funds are available in the vestry designated account when necessary.

#### **Staff Appreciation Bonuses (Executive Session)**

Canon Emily Griffin and Erik Donner were excused as the vestry went into Executive Session. Discussion but no decision also took place about options to provide appreciation gifts to specific individuals.

**A motion to approve the bonuses recommended by the Wardens, totaling just over \$8000 (\$400 for full-time and \$200 for part-time staff) was passed, with one dissenting vote.**

### **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

#### **Senior Warden**

- Senior Warden Greg Hamm displayed the Macrina Bakery gift cards that will be given to the staff in appreciation from the vestry.

#### **Dean**

- Parish meeting on Affordable Housing, the Pageant of the Nativity, Christmas Eve services
- Asked all to review the Dates/Events of Interest and the Thank You documents
- With one surgery down and one to go, family and grandkids are coming after Christmas. Grateful for prayers, goodwill and affection from Steve and Kathy.

### **MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Finance**

Lynne Cobb mentioned the investment subcommittee, with parishioners Justin Mills and David Thompson, to keep reviewing the strategy. Phil remarked on how the transition in staffing has caused delays in providing timely financial statements.

### **Facilities**

The pedestrian stop sign at the end of the exit drive is still not up as the wrong hardware to affix the sign was sent.

### **Intergenerational Council**

Sarah McCord announced that help is needed for the Burning of the Greens and Chili supper taking place on January 4. Looking ahead, help will be needed for the Shove Tuesday pancake supper; 15 people will be needed for an end of July event at Holden Village.

### **Restorative Justice Council**

Part two of *The Asylum Seekers* book group is meeting on December 14.

### **CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER**

Checkouts were given, and the closing prayer was given by Mark Lundquist and the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson  
Clerk

Erik Donner  
Cathedral Administrator

### **Dates/Events of note**

12/17 Pageant of the Nativity, 7pm  
12/21 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  
1/4 Epiphany Lessons and Carols, 4:30pm, followed by Burning of Greens and Chili Supper  
1/25 Annual Parish Meeting  
1/26 Vestry New Member Orientation  
1/31 Vestry Retreat