



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

**June Vestry Meeting
Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 24, 2025 6 p.m.
Diocesan House Council Room
Dinner hosts: Valerie & Becky**

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
Phil Haas, Junior Warden for Finance
Sophie Hager Hume, Diocesan Member (Zoom)
Sam Herring
Hannah Hochkeppel (Zoom)
Becky Kacel, Diocesan Member
Julia Logan, Junior Warden for Facilities
Mark Lundquist
Sarah McCord
Deborah Person
Canon Valerie Reinke, Bishop's Representative
Peter Snyder, Junior Warden for Stewardship
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean (Zoom)
The Rev. Gail Wheatley, Diocesan Member (Zoom)

Vestry Members Absent

Greg Hamm, Senior Warden
Alexandra Thompson

Officers Present

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer
Barbara Erickson, Clerk

Officers Absent

Re Knack, Chancellor

Staff Members Present

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

Dean Thomason opened the meeting with our Land Acknowledgement and a prayer at 6:00 p.m. The Dean and John Hoerster are attending an Affordable Housing Conference in Denver, Colorado.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to adopt the May 27 Vestry Meeting minutes as prepared. Thank you to Christopher Breunig for taking the meeting minutes in Barbara's absence.

STRATEGIC THEME CHECK-IN

Stewarding Our Resources: *We give generously of our time, talent, finances, and property, and care for the Earth as we respond to the world's needs.* Vestry was asked to respond to the questions: How have you embraced this strategic theme recently? How might this be integrated into your ministry group or your life as a Saint Mark's ministry leader?

- Facilities discussed this at their last meeting. Ministries and/or individual vestry members are trying to balance priorities and resources – reuse of items already have
- Programing focused and relevant to younger generations particularly the work of Sandy Nelson
- Gardening – being willing to take direction to clear out invasive plants from neglected areas of our property
- The All-Parish Banquet was a wonderful expression of the talents and contributions to the evening
- Finance, with year-round stewardship consisting of Capital Campaign and the annual stewardship campaign, tries to make sure they follow the principles, which fits but not in the same way as other committees.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Affordable Housing Update

Dean Thomason provided an update on the weekly Redwood Housing team meetings with chair John Hoerster, consultant Tory Laughlin Taylor, and Dean Thomason. The RFPs for architects and general contractors have been finalized with the selection process happening late July or early August. A Community Engagement Plan of Action is being refined for neighbors, to communities harmed, key stake holders, civic groups, parishioners and the hope is to have a firm contract with developers by the July Vestry meeting. We are also working on another grant application to Trinity Church Wall Street for \$150,000 for the development process leading to ground breaking in early 2028 as well as the development of a community-based organization, guided by Saint Mark's, related to homelessness and hunger ministries to address housing crisis.

2. Amistad Lease Payments – Update

Dean Thomason shared good news about Seattle Amistad School, who received their IRS payment and are current once more with rent and operating expenses as of June 1, 2025.

3. Capital Campaign

Dean Thomason relayed that due to the overwhelming generosity of the parish, we have received about 400 pledges for about \$7.5 million! 85% of the \$9 million goal has been reached. An invitation to participate in the Capital Campaign continues with outreach to the remaining protentional donors while the groundwork with the diocese and broader community begins. Dean Thomason expressed his gratitude to all who have been generous and found this to be a source of joy and connection and for the campaign leadership team and the volunteers with more opportunities to come.

4. Audit Update

Preliminary good news report from Lynne Cobb, Treasurer. The auditors provided a draft, and Lynne anticipates the Finance Committee will review on July 21. Lynne continued by saying the

initial 2024 numbers look good, with no surprises. Dean Thomason thanked Lynne for her work on this.

5. Memorial Garden Ad Hoc Committee

Dean Thomason reported the Memorial Garden Ad Hoc Committee has met, and apologized that their report was not provided in the dropbox for this meeting. Steve gave a summary of the committee's proposal of developing a circular area around the cedar tree at the south end of the lawn where ashes can be scattered directly into the ground with a plaque. And he also identified a couple areas where further policies will have to be determined:

- People who have their loved one's ashes in crypt and wish to be placed in the memorial garden.
- Desire for a memorial garden for pets – their ashes in a separate area. The vestry, when asked, was positive about this but did have many questions and suggestions.

NEW BUSINESS

1. July and November Vestry Meeting

Dean Thomason discussed the necessity for a shorter July meeting instead of cancelling it. He also proposed a change in date for the November vestry meeting from the 25th to the 18th to avoid conflicting with Cathedral Choir rehearsal the week of Thanksgiving.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to move the November 25, 2025 vestry meeting to November 18.

2. Accessibility Task Force Update

Valerie Reinke led the discussion with a summary of actions taken – viewing of parishioner Michael Garrett's video, *Enhancing Accessibility at Saint Mark's Cathedral*, and three listening sessions were held and comments were received. The Task Force will be seeking vestry endorsement for the master plan at the September vestry meeting.

3. Annual Investment Distribution Resolution

Dean Thomason brought forward for approval, Vestry Resolution #25-FI-01, the authorization for the annual 4% draw from the Diocesan Investment Fund.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adopt Vestry Resolution #25-FI-01.

4. Nominating Committee

Dean Thomason reported that the Cathedral Bylaws require the Vestry appointment of the Nominating Committee to be made six months before the Parish Annual Meeting. The proposed committee members are Greg Hamm (chair), Jim Buskirk, Carrie Davis, Peter Snyder, Alexandra Thompson, Nancy Valaas, and Hilary McLeland-Wieser.

A motion to appoint Greg Hamm (chair), Jim Buskirk, Carrie Davis, Peter Snyder, Alexandra Thompson, Nancy Valaas, and Hilary McLeland-Wieser to the Nominating Committee was made, seconded, and approved.

LEADERSHIP REPORT

Dean Thomason

- Joining the Evensong Choir Pilgrimage with 53 pilgrims
- Two candidates for the Center for Spirituality & Action Director, with an announcement anticipated in late July

- Stephen Eddy returns to a new role (facilities) on July 1
- Seminarian Emily Meeks has accepted a short-term consultative role for grant writing for affordable housing.
- Thank You letter received from Carbon Offsets To Alleviate Poverty
- A staff planning calendar has been created as a way to ensure there is no stepping on or over each other
- Recognize the geopolitical and other stresses affecting people in this time. We care for one another on community and the clergy are tending to specific needs. Thanks to everyone for such good care of one another.

MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship and Prayer

Julia Logan: Reviewed worship services held during the last quarter. Worship and Prayer Committee meet on June 15, and discussed an article and implementation of proposed lectionary readings in Lent/Eastertide to address antisemitism. The next committee meetings are September 21, February 8, and June 7. Greeters needed for the 9 a.m. service, contact John Selberg.

Finance

Phil Haas offered thanks for efforts of Lynne Cobb, new Senior Accountant Barbara Kelley, and Erik Donner for their “catch up slowly and quickly” hard work.

Facilities

Julia Logan: Leffler Garden is open Sundays between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services until September 8. The front garden/lawn needs mowing and weeding help, contact Kelly Lundquist. Reminder that anything stored in the crypt should be accompanied by documentation.

Stewardship

Peter Snyder announced that the theme for the 2026 Stewardship Campaign is “Choose Generosity,” and work has begun on the materials that go with the theme.

Creation Care

Deborah Person shared that there is a realization that allows faith for Creation Care leadership to emerge on its own. Elizabeth Antley is applying for a City of Seattle carbonization grant.

Intergenerational Council

Martha Craig: Meal train opportunities continue, contact Martha. Volunteers needed for Sacred Spaces days, contact Wendy Barrie. Watering or tending to Leffler Garden, contact Wendy.

Restorative Justice Council

Christopher Breunig: Still evaluating next steps from Poverty Abolition program. Emily Griffin attended lunch at Operation Nightwatch. Migrant justice, paths that we can show up for our migrant friends.

Communications

Sam Herring: News about Saint Mark’s in different sources in Seattle. Social media strategy survey results are forthcoming. Social media advertising discussion – make sense or not?

CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER

Checkouts were given, and the closing prayer was offered by Martha Craig. The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson
Clerk

Erik Donner
Cathedral Administrator

Dates/Events of note