

SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL VESTRY MEETING

May 27, 2025, 6:00 PM, Diocesan House

Present: The Very Rev. Steve Thomason (Dean), Greg Hamm (Sr. Warden), Julia Logan (Jr. Warden for Facilities), Valerie Reinke (Bishop's Representative; Zoom), The Rev. Gail Wheatley (Diocesan Member; Zoom), Phil Haas (Jr. Warden for Finance), Hannah Hochkeppel (Zoom), Lynne Cobb (Treasurer), Mark Lundquist, Peter Snyder (Jr. Warden for Stewardship), Alexandra Thompson (Zoom), Deborah Person, Sophie Hager Hume (Diocesan Member), Martha Craig (Zoom), Sam Herring, Christopher Breunig, Re Knack (Chancellor)

Absent: Barbara Erickson (Clerk), Becky Kacel (Diocesan Member), Sarah McCord

Staff: Erik Donner (Cathedral Administrator), The Rev. Canon Emily Griffin (Canon Vicar)

Guest: David Wild

Dean Steve called the meeting to order and advised that technical challenges that limited Zoom participants to audio functionality only. After delivery of the Land Acknowledgment, Dean Steve gathered the group in prayer, and reviewed the Agenda. He welcomed the newest Vestry member, Sophie Hager Hume of Epiphany, Seattle, to her first in-person meeting. He welcomed parishioner David Wild, and thanked Sam and Peter for preparing the meal.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 22, 2025 Vestry meeting were approved.

Strategic Theme Check In

Cultivating Diverse Community. We actively seek and nurture diverse community through listening, connection, and collaboration.

In response to the questions of how have you and/or your ministry groups integrated this element recently and how might you integrate it going forward, discussion included inclusion of older youth in Eucharistic visitation, new participants for Women's Retreat, respectful engagement with diverse views in group gatherings, intergenerational activities, acknowledgement of diverse political opinions with Braver Angels opportunity, and engagement with other faith communities by Epiphany Parish.

Old Business

- **Affordable Housing Update** – Dean Steve presented on the Affordable Housing initiative including the execution of the Memorandum of Agreement with further work to follow on a Development Agreement with Redwood Housing Partners, LLC likely in July. At the parish forum presenting an Affordable Housing update on May 21 (the fifth in last two years), the selection of Redwood Partners was shared, along with the plans for a Community Based Organization which will allow our project to qualify for state low-income tax credit funding.
- **Amistad Lease Update** – Dean Steve gave an update on Seattle Amistad School's lease issues at the St. Nicholas Building, including the historical changes that led to lease arrearages, plans for resolution of arrearages, and possible funding sources. Possible lease breach notice timing discussion followed with the Vestry.

- Women’s Shelter – Dean Steve shared the urgent need for plumbing repair due to age and prior tenant use to permit the use intended by Donna Jean’s Place participants. The amount will be shared between St. Mark’s Cathedral and Operation Nightwatch. Discussion of abnormal water bill with possible meter malfunction/misread.
- Capital Campaign Update – Dean Steve shared that the May 17 Advanced Commitments event resulted in approximately \$4.5M, and urged all to attend the June 6 All-Parish Banquet. Deborah Person provided details on the banquet and the joy that 400+ have RSVP’d against a plan of 200 attendees. She invited all Vestry members to volunteer for the banquet, including set-up, clean-up, and table hosting. Dean Steve highlighted the June 8 pledge ingathering and June 22 campaign celebration. Following June 22, there will be efforts to invite those in the parish who have not made a pledge to Living Stones II, and diocesan outreach. In addition, Compline Choir will undertake some fundraising for the Capital Campaign and Compline Choir on its 70th Anniversary in August 2026. Design work will continue, and construction may begin in 2027 or 2028.

New Business

- Staffing Updates – Chris Brown has left his facilities position for medical reasons but remains active in the parish. Bookkeeper & Scheduler Stephen Eddy will return in July to a new position of Facilities Associate & Event Support. Barbara Kelley has started as a Senior Accountant. Jim Van Horn has taken on the Scheduler role. Gerry Boler will fill the Facilities Associate position formerly held by Chris Brown. Interviews are under way for the part time Center for Spirituality and Action Director position. Climate Justice Coordinator & Grant Writer Elizabeth Antley is doing superb work and has taken on the additional role of leading the Joyful Noise music classes for toddlers and preschoolers (a grant funded position). There is a net add to compensation among the operational positions in this restructure, but the Executive Committee felt the need to shift to this new design given operational complexities.
- Audit Update – Our Audit will likely be later than its due date of June 15, which has been communicated to the diocese due to staff transition and auditor timing availability.
- Vestry Authorization to post Designated Funds to Capital Campaign – The Executive and Finance Committees recommend transferring three designated funds to the Living Stones II Capital Campaign (amounts as of March 2025):
 - 2420.40 – Carbon Reduction Initiatives (\$43,724)
 - 2420.32 – Joshua Green “Liquid” (\$20,916)
 - 2420.28 – Gallery Project (\$90,948)

The recommendation to transfer the three fund balances to the Capital Campaign was accepted by the Vestry unanimously.
- Fire Panel Replacement – After negotiation over warranty obligations to the Cathedral, the Fire Panel replacement will proceed.

- Bequest Updates -The Gift Acceptance Committee recommends that the Roberta Nestaas Estate unrestricted bequest be applied to the Capital Campaign, with donor recognition in connection with the wood overlay of the altar. The Gift Acceptance Committee also recommends that the bequest from The Rev. Canon Pat Taylor's estate be applied to the Capital Campaign.

The recommendation to apply the two estate gifts to the Capital Campaign was accepted by the Vestry unanimously.

- Grant Updates – Canon Emily provided an update that the Cathedral's FEMA grant is still not released due to administration actions. City of Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment grant will be submitted for reducing carbon footprint. In addition to these grants, Elizabeth Antley is working with Subdean Marc Aubertin to qualify the Cathedral as a clean building, which includes tracking emissions.

Leadership Updates

Senior Warden – Recommends that all comment favorably to staff about the great work that staff accomplishes, against a backdrop of many staff changes. Affordable housing is generating excitement and creativity within the parish. Also, so much talent in staff and parishioners.

Dean – New Cathedral curate, The Rev. Adam Conley, moving expenses addressed (shared with diocese). Graduate baccalaureate will occur on June 1 at the morning Eucharists and Choral Evensong. Ordinations to the priesthood on June 14 with three of the six candidates who have deep ties to the Cathedral. Wisdom School planning is complete for the 2025-26 year. Dean Steve and Kathy will go on the Evensong Choir pilgrimage to England in August.

Ministry Committee Reports

- Worship – Quarterly meeting on June 15. The separate liturgical planning meeting is very interesting.
- Finance – Financial complexity is increasing with the Capital Campaign.
- Facilities – New stop sign support for the parking lot driveway exit. Bloedel Hall and Deanery windows complete.
- Stewardship – Laying the groundwork for fall campaign, which will include a consultant again who will support stewardship with attendance at the October 5 launch.
- Creation Care – Continued conversation of possibly moving under the aegis of Stewardship or Restorative Justice, or leaving it in its current state. Acknowledgment that there is great Creation Care work occurring without a committee structure. Further Vestry consideration of Creation Care is anticipated.
- Intergenerational Council – June 12 quarterly meeting will include a survey of intergenerational offerings. Red snacks and root beer float volunteers for Pentecost on June 8. Updates on next intergenerational hike and three open Cathedral days. New Meal Train leadership.
- Restorative Justice – Operation Nightwatch is seeking street ministry leadership. Appreciative of discussion with former Creation Care leadership.

Checkouts were given, and Phil offered the closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Breunig
Vestry Member

Erik Donner
Cathedral Administrator

Dates/Events of note

May 31	Convene Diocesan Workshop
June 6	Parish Banquet for Campaign
June 8	Campaign Ingathering/Pentecost
June 14	Ordinations to Priesthood (including Adam Conley, Lynne Markova and Kelly Moody)