



April Vestry Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 6pm
Zoom Video Conference

Vestry Members Present

Kristen Austin
Clara Berg
Carrie Davis
The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison, Bishop's Representative
Roberta Kanive
Karla Koon, Diocesan Member
Micah Kurtz, Diocesan Member
Julia Logan, Senior Warden
Peter McClung, Junior Warden
Emily Meeks
Kari Nasby
Michael Perera
Marjorie Ringness
Robert Stevens
Walter Stuteville, Junior Warden
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean

Officers Present

Barbara Erickson, Clerk
Re Knack, Chancellor
Phil Lloyd, Treasurer

Staff Members Present

Erik Donner, Executive Assistant to the Dean
Jim Pannell, Director of Operations

Guest

Betsy Bell, Parishioner and Justice Ministries Coordinating Team Member

Call to Order, Prayer, Review of Agenda

Steve called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:01PM.

Consent Agenda

The Vestry approved the March Meeting Minutes as distributed.

OLD BUSINESS

Listening Process: Nuclear Disarmament

Julia opened the discussion with Betsy Bell by sharing the Vestry's questions regarding the request for a Listening Process for the Cathedral's endorsement of the Washington Against Nuclear Weapons Coalition. Betsy responded and was excused. The vestry had further discussion which resulted in a motion to adapt the statement of the Episcopal Church's 76th General Convention to read: ***"The Vestry of St. Mark's Cathedral Parish calls upon US policy makers to determine a timely process for the dismantling of existing U.S. nuclear weapons while urging other countries to***

do likewise; and be it further resolved, that we urge the President and Congress to explore a moratorium on production of new nuclear arms.” This statement provides opportunity for any Listening Process or educational opportunities to be requested if specific action or endorsement is needed.

The Vestry approved the motion to accept the General Convention statement as modified.

Intercultural Development Inventory and Next Steps

This remains on the agenda until the individual inventory consultations are complete. Then a conversation about how to use the individual and collective information for parish work will begin.

Vestry Phone Calls

Steve thanked the vestry for completing their April phone calls and asked if the vestry would be willing to contact the remainder of the parish. The vestry agreed and Erik will prepare the list of names and contact information which will be sent out later in the week.

EIFS/Paint System on Cathedral Exterior

Steve reported that the exterior paint repairs are about 80% complete. The painters are doing good work and are including work outside the scope. Jim estimates the job may be complete within the next 10 days.

St. Nicholas Building Updates

Jim reported that a leak in the eaves of the roof was the cause of Bright Water School’s mold problem. The roof was repaired, the mold was not toxic and was addressed when it dried out, and the wall was repaired.

Earth Day Northwest 2020 and Creation Care

Marjorie reported that the May 4 & 11 Creation Care forums featuring Scott Henson from Project Drawdown will be happening via Zoom. Ideas of things that families, friends and communities like Saint Mark’s can do will be presented. Steve will provide an introduction about being caretakers of God’s creation for the May 4 forum.

Pandemic-related Issues

- PPP Loan/Grant was received. Thank you to Phil and Jim! Housing allowance is included, but there is an unanswered question about it and taxable or non-taxable income.
- Staffing and Finances. PPP helps with payroll for April and May; we are in a good position to continue with full staffing.
- Gage Academy Rent Relief/Deferral Request. Gage was also awarded their PPP loan. They had asked the cathedral to forgive their May and June rent, which was countered with an offer to spread the rent over the next 36 months. This may still be an issue.
- Pastoral Care and Support. Many phone calls expressing gratitude for the community life available and outreach opportunities; several members have tested positive with COVID-19.
- Livestream and community life during closure. Working well due to the concerted effort by staff and ministry leaders. Virtual Coffee Hour is an example as it began with about 7 attendees and is growing.
- Planning for Eventual Reopening. The approach by governor and public health officials is to reopen and get the economy going in phases. Where churches fit in is unclear although it is expected that restrictions would be imposed, and new spikes will be prevalent. Steve and the staff have been planning what a reopening would look like. The vestry was asked with our current livestream services and vibrant community activities, should we stay where we are until the spike levels, and then open when safe? Vestry discussion ranged from staying the course, adding interest to the livestreams, acknowledging the logistical challenges, and keeping our community informed. All agreed that safety is our first priority.

NEW BUSINESS

Hallock Institute/Director Compensation

Steve reported that the Compline Choir Director position is an unpaid position and is not a part of the Cathedral staffing but is under the Diocese of Olympia. There is a strong desire to compensate this position. This issue was brought to the Bishop who in turn asked the cathedral to help underwrite a salary of \$4,000 for this ¼ time position for the first year, descending the grant by 1/3 in year two, and by 2/3 in year 3, then ending the grant.

The Vestry approved the motion to join the Diocese of Olympia in underwriting the \$4,000 salary for the Compline Choir Director position in 2021.

Heritage Sunday

Steve announced that Heritage Sunday will take place on Sunday, May 24. Former senior wardens spanning three decades will read the lessons; former dean – The Rev. Fred Northup, will prerecord his sermon, Morning Prayer instead of Holy Eucharist with traditional prayers are planned; further details forthcoming.

Tree Issues at Bus Stop

Steve reported that the maple tree by the Metro bus stop has root problems which will require either the removal of the tree or removal of the dead parts. Part of the tree overhangs the bus stop and the remedy will affect the bus stop and traffic, so for safety, 10th Avenue must be closed to traffic and the bus line will be redirected that day.

Cathedral Foundation Disbursement

Steve reported that the Cathedral Foundation will be issuing its annual 4% disbursement of the endowment in this second quarter. Due to unbudgeted expenses, a request was made for a special disbursement of \$18,000 from the Capital Reserve Fund which was also granted.

Annual Financial Review

Phil will coordinate a call with the auditors to perform the annual review virtually.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Senior Warden

- Attending many Zoom meetings, making phone calls, sending emails and texts.
- **Made a motion, and the vestry unanimously approved, to formally recognize and give appreciation for the wonderful work the dean, clergy, and staff are all doing, and how incredible Saint Mark's is in serving the community.**
- Co-facilitating a Radix group and expressed appreciation for those who run Radix and other Zoom technology and help with problem solving.
- The Bishop's Stewardship webinar was this afternoon, if you were unable to attend, a recording will be available.

Dean

- Generosity of community is overwhelming with all the uncertainty that exists. People love this community and are committed to the mission and ministry of this place which is shown through their participation and financial generosity.
- June 30 is the date of the ordination of priests at Saint Mark's. It will be available via livestream with a limited number in the building.
- Files of Note—
 - Easter Plate Income trends 2016-2020 – received about \$5,000 through online or mail in offerings, which is about half for an Easter; Sunday plate offerings are about half also, and our budget reflects \$100,000 in this category. Steve expressed gratitude for the generosity of those worshipping with us.
 - Zoom meetings that staff have held numbers 367 with 2790 participants and a total of 125,800 minutes.

Ministry/Committee Structure and Reports

Faith Formation – Adult

Emily: Online survey will be sent out and you are encouraged to participate; Faith Formation will continue to use the Zoom platforms and are interested in any ideas you have to engage others in joining the gatherings.

Creation Care

Marjorie: Reminder to register for the Zoom sessions on May 4 and 11.

Roberta: Grateful for the inclusion of families.

Hospitality

Steve: Thank you to Peter for taking on the leadership for Virtual Coffee Hour, Newcomers Coffee this Sunday with Earl being looked at as to how we welcome newcomers; Michael's Friday Afternoon Tea – low key Zoom gathering.

Communications

Michael: *The Rubric* next issue will be available in September as an online version only. The parish will receive a notification of its arrival either by postcard or letter; livestream analytics reflect about 2,500 people watched the Easter Sunday service; Michael Kleinschmidt's introductory videos of the upcoming Sunday hymns are well received.

Stewardship

Robert: The committee will be meeting in May. He attended the Bishop's Stewardship webinar and benefited from generational ideas that were offered.

Finance

Phil: Watching our financials closely.

Check out & Closing Prayer

Checkouts were given and the closing prayer was offered by Steve and the meeting was adjourned at 8:29PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson
Clerk

Erik Donner
Executive Assistant

Dates/Events of note

5/24 Heritage Sunday

6/30 Ordinations