



November Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, November 24, 2020, 6pm
Zoom Video Conference

Vestry Members Present

Kristen Austin
Clara Berg
Jim Buskirk
Carrie Davis
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

Vestry Members Absent

The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison, Bishop's Representative

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

Guests

John Hoerster, Chancellor Emeritus
Lynne Markova, Nominating Committee Chair

Call to Order, Prayer, Review of Agenda

Steve opened the meeting at 6:00PM and welcomed Jim Buskirk to the Vestry.

Consent Agenda

The Vestry approved the October 27, 2020 meeting minutes as published.

Special Order of Business

Update on Exploratory Process for Redevelopment of the St. Nicholas Property.

John reported that the Request for Interest process has slowed down, and interviews with three developers are scheduled on December 2, 8, and 16. Options in replacing Bright Water School, as the school prepares to close at the end of this school year, was discussed. Communications with the Parish will also be delayed until more information is available. Rebecca Ralston, a parishioner with background in real estate development, has joined the Saint Mark's committee.

OLD BUSINESS

Reopening Planning

Governor Inlee's new restrictions to stem the coronavirus spread in Washington has led to an adjustment in the livestream services with limitation to a soloist versus a quartet for at least the next four weeks. We are being "Team players for the common good" and are still able to offer Pop-Up Eucharist and prayer time in the Nave by reservation. A Pop-Up Eucharist was held on Monday, November 23 and a Diocesan confirmation on Saturday, November 21 near the Labyrinth.

Stewardship Update

As of November 20, 332 commitments totaling \$1,390,000 have been received for the 2021 campaign. Pledges continue to come in. 186 were increased pledges. Thank You to the Vestry for 100% participation.

Nominating Committee Update

Lynne Markova, Nominating Committee Chair, reported that the committee has been hard at work and has a full complement of Diocesan Convention delegates and alternates as well as a full slate of Vestry candidates.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning for Virtual Annual Meeting and Elections

The elections that will be held at the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2021 is presenting a challenge as a virtual meeting. All aspects of the election from the nominating process to the actual casting of ballots – in a virtual environment or for those not having access to a virtual environment – are under review. Annual Meeting will be opened Sunday, January 24 for nominations from the floor and to prepare the ballots. Paper ballots will be available for those without computers, but not vote by proxy.

Discussion continued around the suspension of the by-law's definition referencing "Parish Communicant in Good Standing" (receiving communion at least three times at Saint Mark's.). The Executive Committee will discuss this subject and bring a recommendation to the December Vestry meeting.

Motion was made and approved by the Vestry to move the January Vestry meeting from January 26 to January 19.

Tree Removal and Trimming Expenses

Jim reported the removal of the dead birch tree is delayed as the city transportation department is not issuing traffic diversion permits. Plans are to move ahead to complete what is possible with the pruning of the trees identified beginning on December 9. An arborist has been retained. An electronic vote was taken by the Vestry and resulted in a unanimous approval for the expenditure of \$22,000.

Boy Scouts of America Bankruptcy Claim, and Consent

The Diocese of Olympia will be filling a "proof of claim" in the event Diocese and its missions are named in any lawsuits and they will act as the Agent for Saint Mark's Parish.

The Vestry voted unanimously to endorse the consent form permitting the Diocese of Olympic to act as the Agent for Saint Mark's Parish.

Proposed 2021 Budget

Recommendation of a budget with a projected \$36,000 deficit as it is anticipated the Cathedral will remain closed for first six months of 2021. The revenue and expenses were reviewed. Jim is thankful for Stephen Eddy, Bookkeeper, and the staff for realistic budget views.

Motion to adopt the 2021 budget as proposed by the Finance Committee was made and approved by the Vestry.

Clergy Housing Resolution

Annual Housing Resolution provides “housing allowance” to the clergy as a tax benefit when filing their federal income tax.

A Motion was made and approved by the Vestry to adopt the Housing Resolution (Vestry Resolution #20-FI-02) as submitted.

Proposed Vestry Calendar 2021

Modification to show January 19 as the new Vestry meeting date as voted at this meeting. It was noted that the calendar currently reflects the Vestry Retreat as being in person, but it may be a virtual meeting.

The Motion to adopt the 2021-2022 Vestry Calendar as proposed was made and approved by the Vestry.

December Vestry Meeting (12/15)

There is enough business to have a Vestry meeting on December 15, a week earlier. Items currently on the agenda are a) the Mutual Ministry Review, b) Finance Committee will be that Monday, c) Information on the St. Nicholas redevelopment and d) By-laws change for the election.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Senior Warden

- Shout out thanks to clergy and staff for all they have and are doing to keep the parishioners connected from parishioners. Urging parishioners to thank the staff personally.
- Spirited Women’s Retreat was a great success, link to a presentation.
- Radix 3 has wrapped up, was a facilitator and it continues to be an amazing nurturing source of contact with congregation, participate if you have an opportunity.
- Participated in webinar for Clergy Wellness. Slide presentation link [Clergy Wellness in COVID \(ecww.org\)](https://www.ecww.org), also available on youtube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=oP81si0vvGM.
- Reminder that we need to support the clergy – they are experiencing the same issues. Clergy have their Sabbath on Friday, allow them their day off.

Dean

- Entering the Advent and Christmas season. O antiphons will happen on Sunday night – November 29.
- Pause on task force for Duwamish acknowledgments. Cecile Hansen, chairperson of Duwamish tribe, is interested in reconnecting after Thanksgiving.
- Mirabai Starr workshop has 120 registered to date.
- The need for pastoral care due to deaths, COVID-19, ICU, loneliness, isolation, and depression amongst the parishioners; with these range of feelings, clergy is finding ways to be attentive to all needs.
- Stewardship – grateful for the great response, sizable number of parishioners who have increased their budget.
- Staff support – very aware of and attentive to stresses experienced by the staff. Employee assistance program as part of benefit structure, robust of leave policy especially during COVID, PPP loan allows room in this year’s budget and reassured jobs; Edie Weller was asked to be Staff Chaplain; offering periodic staff retreat – meaning retreat from all work – take time away.
- Written several grants received: Global Mission Grant for Elizabeth Hawkins’ work; Green Grant for electrical vehicle charging stations; Seattle Service Corps to help offset COVID related expenses and fundraising challenges.

- Theologian-in-Residence from Detroit, Michigan, The Rev. Walter Brownridge. Will help with strategic work in the area of racial justice.
- Cristi Chapman's resignation in mid-December. Farewell blessing on December 13 at Virtual Coffee Hour.
- Angry emails from a former parishioner sent to a variety of people regarding the insensitivity of having a flute concert by a white man playing Native American flute music in the Nave without proper consultation with Indigenous Episcopalians. Making amends with the parishioner and convenor Ethnic Ministries Circles of Color, The Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton.
- Bishop Rickel's 10 rules of respect are in the Dropbox.
- *The New York Times* article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/19/style/loretta-ross-smith-college-cancel-culture.html> – compelling about Cancel Culture phenomenon. Church should resist playing into a Cancel Culture approach given our work of having respectful conversations, as we listen and learn from Black, Indigenous and People of Color and learn to come to terms with our whiteness and our complicity in systemic racism in healthy ways.

MINISTRY/COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND REPORTS

Faith Formation

Youth/Children, Kari: Youth gathering leaf raking in October and Sunday November 22 watched and a movie followed by discussion, and Vespers service in December.

Kristen: Advent home mailer was sent out; Sunday's Godly Play, and baptisms

Adult Faith Formation, Emily: Four confirmation/receptions on Saturday, November 21; collaborating Watch Parties with Creation Care

Justice (JMCT)

Micah: Report in Dropbox; Annual Reports from the Justice Ministries were reviewed; no funding was requested.

Creation Care

Marjorie: Next meeting is December 14; reading "All We Can Save" – poems and essays on climate change by female writers. Included is an essay called "Indigenous People and Mother Earth" by Sherri Mitchell. Steve is reading "Re-enchanting the Earth: Why AI Needs Religion" by Ilia Delio.

Communications

Michael: Advent mailers underwritten by Children and Families ministries and the Adult Faith Formation budget, Advent at Home tri-fold mailers; January Rubric online only; new livestream strategies – hybrid Zoom/livestream from Thomsen Chapel during Christmas season.

Facilities

Walter: David Wagner's Facilities Report with photos is available in Vestry Dropbox. Thank the Facilities staff for the remarkable work being done. Tent over the labyrinth for the Bishop's Confirmation was a wonderful addition.

Diocesan Members of the Vestry

Micah, St. Columba, Kent: No outdoor pop up services; virtual Advent – ambience of the season.

Karla, St. Andrew's, Seattle: Good visit with Bishop Rickel who confirmed, received, and reaffirmed 11 members. Returning to worship, people coming back into the space, entered with high anxiety. No tag of being confirmed during COVID, just confirmed.

Cathedral Foundation

Steve reported their annual meeting will be held in February.

Reflection: What was intercultural about our agenda and conversations today?

- Conversation about potential tenants for the St. Nicholas Building.
- Discussion about the different perspectives from the flute concert.
- Excitement about visiting theologian in 2021.
- Sensitivity to the different ways people communicate or gather.
- Considerations for the elections during a virtual Annual Meeting to accommodate those who do not have easy access to a computer for the election.
- Decision to pause Duwamish relationship building.
- Promote Vestry meetings are open to the parish.
- BIPOC composer for O Antiphons, have more voices involved in the selection process.
- Intentionality in encouraging the parishioners to attend Vestry meetings.
- Accessibility of Vestry members to the Parish lost with closures.

Check out & Closing Prayer

Checkouts were given and Clara gave the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Barbara J. Erickson
Clerk

Erik Donner
Executive Assistant

Dates/Events of note

11/26	10:00am	Thanksgiving Day Svc (Livestream)
11/29	7pm	O Antiphons (Livestream)
12/5	9:30am	Mirabai Starr—Grief, Loss and Hope (Zoom)
12/24	4pm, 7:30pm, 11pm	Services (Livestream)
12/25	10am	Christmas Day service (Livestream)