



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

May Vestry Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, May 24, 2022 6PM
Zoom

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 the Duwamish Tribe.

Vestry Members Present

Clara Berg, Junior Warden
Tina Blondino, Diocesan Member
The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison, Bishop's Representative
Wayne Duncan
Scott Hulet
Kristen Kelly
Karla Koon, Diocesan Member
Emily Meeks, Senior Warden
Justin Mills
Kathy Minsch
Katie Prettyman, Diocesan Member
Chris Rigos, Junior Warden
Walter Stuteville, Junior Warden
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean
Doug Thorpe

Vestry Members Absent

Carmen Brady
Scott Kovacs

Officers Present

Barbara Erickson, Clerk
Lynne Cobb, Treasurer
Re Knack, Chancellor

Staff Members Present

Erik Donner, Executive Assistant to the Dean
The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty, Canon for Engagement & Connection
Kathy Wickward, Director of Operations

Call to Order, Land Acknowledgment, Prayer

Steve opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgment followed by a prayer at 6:00PM.

Review of Agenda

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adopt the minutes from the April 26, 2022 Vestry Meeting as published.

CHANGES IN AGENDA

Strategic Conversation: Creation Care

The Creation Care conversation will occur at a future Vestry meeting. Instead, the time was allocated for people to speak from their hearts and share their feelings after the Uvalde, Texas school shooting, where 19 children and two teachers were killed by an 18-year-old gunman. A minute of silence was held, and then three prayers were said for the children and teachers, the shooter and his family, and for those present and the cathedral community.

Cathedral By-Laws Proposed Changes

Washington State statutes for nonprofits have been dramatically rewritten to modernize them and took effect January 1, 2022. More information will be available at a future Vestry meeting (likely June).

OLD BUSINESS

St. Nicholas Roof Replacement Update

Kathy Wickward reported that she is seeking a subcontractor for the abatement work through Rafn, and she also located Tecta America, who is interested. The timeline for the repair is next year.

St. Nicholas Floor Water Damage & Remediation Plan

One flooring company is willing to do the demolition and installation for \$6,000. The work will not be completed until the end of June, which will require negotiations for room use as the Steve & Kate's Camp begins in mid-June.

St. Nicholas HVAC Issues (Gage)

An agreement with Gage Academy of Art was reached to release from paid parking on campus and to offer seven days rent concession (\$5,100). The vacuum pump quit completely this past month but the heating element still works. Kathy has three bids for replacing the vacuum pump ranging up to \$13,000. A couple other bids were received that ranged between \$37,000 and \$42,000 that included additional replacements. Due to the notable difference in price, Kathy will confirm the replacements needed.

A motion to authorize \$13,000 for the replacement of the vacuum pump at the St. Nicholas Building was made, seconded, and approved by the Vestry.

St. Nicholas Tour

The tour for the Vestry and Facilities Committee is scheduled for May 31 at 5:30 PM.

Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI)

Those who need to take the IDI should have received an invitation by email. Once completed, the data will be added to the existing vestry group profile. The IDI will assist the Vestry in how we make decisions and things to keep in mind when working together. A one-on-one debrief can also be arranged.

NEW BUSINESS

Report on Bishop's Leadership Conference

The theme of the conference was "What's Now? What's Next? Church in Pandemic and Beyond." Emily described aspects of the re-negotiation model shared at the conference to assess this theme, including a "pinch" that happens before a "disruption" and the planned re-negotiation phase to address a pinch. Highlights: Engaging youth in the ministry of audio and technical support, church as a third place, and the new Canon for Multicultural Ministries & Community Transformation, The Rev. Canon Carla Robinson.

Chris focused on the stewardship workshops. One theme was designed for parishioners who may not understand stewardship by conveying that all we have is from God, and how we take care of the assets entrusted to us matters. The way to connect with people is to describe in human terms how they feel when they become a steward. This matches what the Stewardship Ministry emphasized last year and is considering for this year—reaching out with stories to see and show how we are changing our lives and their lives.

Steve reported that Canon Arienne Davison and Canon Alissa Newton led the State of the Clergy Wellness workshop and addressed 1) Clergy Wellness Survey – clergy are significantly stretched and working longer hours, yet satisfaction level is good, and 2) State of the Clergy related to open positions and challenges across the church in recruiting clergy personnel. Personnel Report updates included inflationary pressures are real and the proposed Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is not yet known but expected to be a significant increase. Sample April 2021 to April 2022 shows COLA at 9.1%. Looking into ways to adjust.

Financial Audit Report

Lynne Cobb was excited to report that the Financial Audit Report was completed well within the June 15 timeframe to turn into the diocese. Lynne recapped the Audit Report which provided a letter of clean opinion. Lynne is happy with the experience and thanked Kathy Wickward and Bookkeeper Stephen Eddy for their hard work to provide all documents. The Finance Committee has reviewed and accepted both the Audit and Management Letter.

The Vestry received the 2021 Audit Report and approved sending it to the Diocese of Olympia.

Meals for Tent City on Campus

Chris informed us that Tent City would be more comfortable if meals (12 Sundays) were prepared and delivered to them rather than his original thought to share a prepared meal in Bloedel Hall. Chris will need less volunteers and will be reaching out to various ministries for help. There is a line item in the 2022 budget for \$2,500 for a new homelessness and hunger initiative which the Executive Committee determined would be a good fit. The Teen Feed's budget of \$1,400 is not entirely used, \$1,000 could come from there. The Dean is willing to give an additional \$1,000 to \$1,500 from his Discretionary Fund. A motion from the Executive Committee authorizes the Vestry to move the \$2,500 line item from the Homelessness and Hunger Initiative to meals for Tent City 3 and allocates up to \$1,000 from the Teen Feed budget.

The Vestry authorized the allocation of up to \$2,500 from the Homelessness and Hunger Initiative and up to \$1,000 from the Teen Feed budget to feed Tent City 3 on 12 Sundays during their stay at Saint Mark's.

Vestry Liaison to Revitalized Communications Committee Forming

Steve reminded us that the Communications Committee, a standing committee of the Vestry, went on hiatus during the pandemic. Kathy Wickward and Communications Director Greg Bloch have discussed forming a revitalized committee. Kathy sees the committee as having two purposes:

1. Pool of volunteers who met regularly to cover communications needs
2. Meet the needs of the cathedral as communication policies and technology around communications change

The committee would be comprised of livestream and website volunteers, and a Vestry liaison is needed.

Status of July Vestry Meeting

Steve reminded the Vestry that it has been the practice, unless there is pressing business to address, to take off the months of July and December. The Vestry agreed, with no concerns, to cancel the July meeting.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Senior Warden

- 20s & 30s activities include Questioning Together and Contemplative Practices gathering. Scott Hulet and John Simmons have opened their Bainbridge Island home to the 20s & 30s to visit in August, which will include a visit to St. Barnabas Episcopal Church and the Japanese American Exclusion Memorial.
- Liturgical Ministry Training on Zoom had strong engagement. One Blue Planet exhibit at Seattle Art Museum – 10 intergenerational parishioners met to view the exhibit and discuss afterward at the museum café.

Dean

- Pre-design Committee began work on May 23 to consider the scope of work for potential renovations in the Cathedral itself, Narthex, and infrastructure supporting the Cathedral.
- The Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining, 2022 Theologian-in-Residence, hosted a Zoom forum, “Spiritual Practices as Balm for the Soul,” with 80 participants. She will also be hosting a workshop on August 20 about Mary Magdalene, and will be the guest preacher on August 21.
- Revising the 7:00PM Sunday Eucharist to keep the contemplative nature and hold more space in contemplation and silence.
- A forum with the Salahi family, our Afghanistan refugee family and an update on the Sahar School for Girls is scheduled for June 15 via Zoom only.
- Replacement for Adam Conley, Seattle Service Corps Director and Staff Support for 20s & 30s Group, has been posted and applications are coming in.
- Cost of Living Adjustment for 2023 will be sizable.
- PrideFest will take place on June 25 and Saint Mark’s will have a booth at this Capitol Hill event.
- Review of upcoming dates
 - May 31: St. Nicholas Building tour
 - June 5: Pentecost with baptisms
 - June 13: Ordinations to the priesthood of six ordinands from the diocese
 - June 29: Ordination to the priesthood of Curate Linzi Stahlecker
 - June 15–25: Steve will be on vacation to see 5-month-old grandchild Ila!
 - July 17–29: Steve and Jennifer will lead a Celtic tour with 30 parishioners to Iona and the Celtic missions of Scotland and Northumbria.
 - July 31–August 15: Evensong Choir in residence at Chichester and Bristol Cathedrals in England. Steve will accompany the choir as the chaplain.
- Files of Note
 - Land Acknowledgment Guidelines
 - Cecile Hansen op-ed
 - Thank you notes—from The Episcopal Church (HBCUs; annual appeal), Church Council, AFEDJ; to the Rickels from the Vestry

MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship & Prayer

Steve reported there was good conversation with about 20 people on Zoom regarding Lent, Holy Week, and Easter services.

Finance

Lynne reported that she, Scott Kovacs, and Phil Haas are taking a closer look at the Finance Committee charter to consider having an investment subcommittee to review and make recommendations. They are looking for other members who may have this skill set to join. Justin Mills volunteered to help.

Stewardship

Chris reported that activities for this year have begun. Wayne Duncan has joined the committee recently. There is continued interest to add more diversity to the group. Chris ended his report with what the committee does.

Creation Care & Carbon Reduction

Kathy Minsch reported that Lindsay Bell, Seattle Service Corps, talked about her experience with Earth Ministries. There will be a series of climate conversations beginning the first Tuesday of June with Marc Aubertin and Richard Hartung on food. July’s conversation will focus on energy.

Innovative & Intergenerational Community

Kristen reported Sunday, May 29 will be the Blessing of the Bees after the celebration of Doreen Tudor’s 100th birthday at 10:10AM; no forum on June 5 due to Pentecost; Sunday, June 12 is the Ride/Run/Roll at

Seward Park; Eat, Play, Love begins on Wednesday, June 22; Neighborhood Eucharists begin on Saturday, May 28 and more neighborhood hosts are needed; a focus is looking for different ways to get families involved with the carbon tracker and garden work.

Restorative Justice & Systemic Change

Scott Hulet reported the first Restorative Justice council meeting was held on Sunday, May 22. The *Church Cracked Open* book study has begun and there is an open invitation for all to join. In addition, the 11-week study, Sacred Ground, is being looked at for the future.

REFLECTION: MUTUAL MINISTRY CHECK-IN

- Space allowed for reflection – Intergenerational and Restorative Justice
- St. Nicholas report– environment and cost reduction but maintain building as ongoing asset.
- Offering meals to Tent City3 – Restorative Justice.

Check outs were given, and the closing prayer was given by Wayne. The meeting was adjourned at 8:23PM

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson
Clerk

Erik Donner
Executive Assistant

Dates/Events of note

5/31 St. Nicholas Building Tour