



SAINT MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

**June Vestry Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 28, 2022 6PM**  
**Leffler House**

*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; Carmen Brady; Wayne Duncan; Scott Hulet; Karla Koon, Diocesan Member  
Scott Kovacs; Emily Meeks, Senior Warden; Kathy Minsch; Katie Prettyman, Diocesan Member; Chris  
Rigos, Junior Warden; Walter Stuteville, Junior Warden; The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean; and  
Doug Thorpe

*Absent:* Tina Blondino, Diocesan Member; The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison, Bishop's Representative;  
Kristen Kelly; and Justin Mills

**Officers Present**

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer

*Absent:* Barbara Erickson, Clerk; Re Knack, Chancellor

**Staff Members Present**

Erik Donner, Executive Assistant to the Dean; Kathy Wickward, Director of Operations

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**Call to Order, Land Acknowledgment, Prayer**

Steve opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgment followed by a prayer at 6:00PM. Thank you to  
Wayne, Scott, and Katie for providing and hosting the meal.

**Review of Agenda**

**A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adopt the minutes from the May 24, 2022 Vestry Meeting without changes.**

**CHANGES IN AGENDA**

**Finance Recommendation: Review vs. Audit**

Lynne and Clara shared that the Finance Committee recommends a review, with the same auditing firm, instead of a full audit in 2023. For background, the Saint Mark's 2022 audit was successful with a clean opinion. Conducting a review is about one-third of the cost of an audit.

**The Vestry approved this motion forwarded from the Finance Committee to proceed with a review of financial statements instead of a full audit in 2023.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **St. Nicholas Roof Replacement Update**

Kathy W. provided an update on securing a subcontractor for repairing the roof next year. Tecta has dropped out because they could not secure an asbestos abatement partner. A representative from Dr. Roof is working with an abatement partner and will put in a bid. Conversations with Rafn Company continue to obtain an estimate that includes an abatement team. Kathy W. is also working to get an estimate for ridge repair as an interim step that will support the future work of the full roof repair.

### **St. Nicholas Floor Water Damage & Remediation Plan**

The work to address floor water damage due to a leak and the remediation of mold is now complete. The paperwork will now be sent to the State.

### **St. Nicholas HVAC Issues (Gage)**

In May, the vestry authorized funding to replace the vacuum pump at the St. Nicholas Building as a result of the pump failing earlier in May. The three bids ranged from \$13,000-\$42,000, and a question was raised about the wide variance. Kathy W. did more research on necessary replacements and confirmed the recommendation to replace the pumps only. The pumps could last 10-15 years. There is a possibility to still experience issues, but these are thought to be small enough to be addressed without warranting replacing the entire unit.

### **Meals for Tent City on Campus**

Chris provided an update on meals shared with Tent City this summer (June-September 4). He observed that the Tent City group this year appears to be younger and a smaller group (around 30). There is a focus on using compostable materials. Chris and Maris Olsen are asking volunteers to reflect on three questions: 1) Did you enjoy it? 2) How can we improve? 3) What spiritual takeaway do you have? The vision of this partnership is to build a team who is engaged and finds meaning in the service together. Katie suggested setting up a station for hygiene kit assembly as a way to incorporate youth participation. Lynne shared that this had been done several years prior with Kelly Moody. Chris will follow up with Rebekah Gilmore to inquire about interest and logistics.

### **Communications Committee**

A reformed communications committee met recently. This will be a standing committee of the vestry and there is an opening for a liaison. Greg Bloch and Kathy W. will lead agenda development with an opportunity for committee input. Meetings will be the third Tuesday at 7 p.m. For a full report of this month's meeting, please refer to Dropbox.

### **STRATEGIC CONVERSATION: *Renegotiation Model***

Organizational models are lenses that allow us to look at our congregation and assess them. One such model is the Planned Renegotiation Cycle model. This model looks at how a point of disruption can be an opportunity for change within a system through termination, returning to previous ways, or renegotiating a new way. The Executive Committee recently used this model to think about the disruption COVID on how we gather as a church. One "pinch" identified—or information that can be used to prevent disruption—was volunteer participation. There appears to be a decrease in volunteers while an increase in new attendees. The vestry engaged in a brainstorming exercise around three questions: 1) How did you first discover or connect with a ministry at Saint Mark's? 2) What challenges do you notice that may influence volunteer participation? 3) What is an idea that you think could increase participation or engagement?

We looked closely at the results for question #3, identified communication as a common theme, and prioritized this area for next steps. Ideas included: considering navigation and content experience for attendees attending virtually and for non-digital attendees, spotlighting ministries in print, online, and video channels, and being specific about the ask in the context of tasks, skills and hours expected for a ministry. Emily will summarize the conversation and follow-up with Kathy W. and the communications committee.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Cathedral Bylaws proposed changes**

Washington state statutes for nonprofit organizations have been significantly revised with changes taking effect January 1, 2022. Re is continuing work on revisions needed to align the cathedral's bylaws with these changes.

### **Nominating Committee**

The cathedral's bylaws (Article VI, section 1) state that the Nominating Committee consists of at least seven members appointed by the Vestry. The Nominating Committee develops a double slate of nominees to serve as Parish Members on the Vestry with the election at the Annual Parish Meeting. The committee also develops a slate for delegates to Diocesan Convention. Steve identified names for the 2022-2023 Nominating Committee: Julia Logan (chair), Jim Buskirk, Carrie Davis, Michael Perera, John Selberg, Emily Meeks and Dean Steve Thomason (ex officio). There was discussion to invite an additional person who has never served on vestry before.

**The Vestry approved the motion to appoint these six members with encouragement to recruit an additional member who has not served on vestry previously.**

## **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

### **Senior Warden**

Emily shared that the Bishop's Climate Justice Task force recently completed and submitted a 60+ page report to the Bishop, focusing on education and engagement recommendations for addressing climate change and supporting parishes in the Diocese of Olympia. The 20s/30s + Seattle Service Corps backpacking trip to the Olympic Peninsula provided a memorable opportunity for connection, reflection and adventure. The first session of Eat, Play, Love in June brought together people from all services in a fun and engaging way. There are opportunities for us as vestry to show support in July and August.

Emily asked vestry members to sign a card for Linzi's upcoming ordination to the priesthood as a gesture of support and encouragement. Emily thanked Diocesan Member Karla Koon for her service on vestry as she begins her transition to Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and presented a card and gift from the vestry. Emily recognized the 18th anniversary of Dean Steve Thomason's ordination to the priesthood (June 26) and presented a card and gift from vestry.

### **Dean**

Steve also recognized Karla Koon's service on vestry as a Diocesan member, presenting a book of devotions and wishing her well in seminary and continued welcome to the cathedral.

Steve shared highlights of a recent time away to visit his granddaughter, Ila. Ila is now planking! He will be co-leading a pilgrimage to Iona on Celtic Spirituality with Canon Jennifer King Daugherty (July 17-29) and then continuing traveling in England on the Evensong Choir pilgrimage, visiting the cathedrals of

Bristol and Chichester (July 31-August 14). Wisdom School planning for the 2022-2023 year is well underway, and the theme will be Embodied Spirituality with a particular focus on pilgrimage as spiritual practice.

On June 26, there was a blessing for the departure of the Seattle Service Corps members and director Adam Conley. Adam's last day will be Friday, July 1. A search committee led by Canon Wendy Claire Barrie is underway to interview 10 qualified applicants.

*Upcoming dates/events of interest:*

- Wednesday, June 29: The Rev. Linzi Stahlacker's ordination. All vestry members are encouraged to attend.
- Tuesday, July 5 and Wednesday, July 6: Advent in July! American Guild of Organists (AGO) conference asked if Saint Mark's could host "O" Antiphons. These services are open to the public.
- No July vestry meeting.
- Sunday, September 11 - Ministry Fair
- Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18 – The Rev. Canon Mary Crist, Indigenous Theological Education Coordinator of The Episcopal Church, will visit Saint Mark's for a workshop on Saturday and preaching at the 9 am and 11 am services on Sunday.

## **MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*For full reports, please see the June Dropbox folder.*

### **Worship & Prayer**

A smaller subgroup met in May to review Lent and Eastertide. They have been working through older bulletins (an example of renegotiation!) to think through new liturgies.

### **Finance**

The discussion about the audit vs. review occurred at the beginning of the meeting. The committee is revisiting the charter with specific focus on the investment policy section. This has also generated thinking about the policy documents that support the charter. There will be a quarterly assessment provided. In addition, we have recently changed banks to First Security Bank from Bank of America. First Security Bank is in the neighborhood – the volunteer money counters can even walk to the bank to deposit money. All accounts so far have indicated a favorable customer experience. For financials, we are slightly ahead on revenue and under budget on expenses due to open positions.

### **Facilities**

Walter will be recommending to change the Facilities meeting cadence to monthly.

### **Stewardship**

There have been two meetings to date and the cadence will increase to once a week as campaign details ramp up. Chris is working closely with the group to ensure that spiritual transformation is the focus rather than a transactional ask and feel. Coming up soon will be choosing a theme and branding for the

campaign.

### **Creation Care & Carbon Reduction**

The first event of “Climate Conversations” featured Chef Marc Aubertin and Richard Hartung. These conversations will be held monthly on the first Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. with topics such as transportation and energy. There is also opportunity to access the new Creation Care library, which is located behind the stage in Bloedel Hall. Anyone interested in the Creation Care newsletter can sign up. In the fall, Creation Care will host a retreat facilitated by Rev. Stephen Crippen, and the content will be designed for reflection on work to date and further engagement in the future.

### **Innovative & Intergenerational Community**

The Intergenerational Council met recently to review past events and discuss upcoming opportunities. The 20s/30s will be visiting Bainbridge Island in August and hosting a liturgical farm to table dinner at Nurturing Roots in September. Neighborhood Eucharists have begun and will be hosted at the home of a parishioner monthly through October. All are welcome. As mentioned earlier, Eat, Play, Love focuses on the theme of water with many opportunities to volunteer and attend. In September, the Blessing of the Backpacks will be a way to support children and families starting back to school. There will be an opportunity the weekend before the Blessing of the Animals to gather and make dog and cat treats.

### **Restorative Justice & Systemic Change**

On July 9, there will be a tour to the Duwamish Longhouse in West Seattle led by Canon Eliacín Rosario-Cruz. A book study on *The Church Cracked Open* brought together an average of 20 people to each of the four sessions. Scott shared that at PrideFest, many people dropping by the booth expressed a connection to Compline and how it had brought them back to their spirituality. In addition, several of the volunteer participants from Saint Mark’s had been recently confirmed or received.

### **Diocesan Members**

At Trinity, Everett, Katie shared that The Rev. Allen Hicks was recently ordained. At St. Andrew’s, Seattle, Karla shared that they have been living into Pentecost and also exploring questions similar to the strategic planning exercise earlier in the meeting on volunteer participation.

### **REFLECTION: MUTUAL MINISTRY CHECK-IN**

The group discussed connections to the mutual ministry goals of Creation Care and Carbon Reduction, Intergenerational and Innovative Community, Restorative Justice and Systemic Change. Connections made included Tent City (Restorative Justice and Systemic Change, Creation Care and Carbon Reduction), Pride participation (Intergenerational and Innovative Community), rising energy costs (Creation Care and Carbon Reduction), and increased intergenerational programming and leadership from Canon Wendy Claire Barrie (Intergenerational and Innovative Community).

Check outs were given, and the closing prayer was given by Karla. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Meeks  
Senior Warden & Clerk pro tem

Erik Donner  
Executive Assistant