



September Vestry Minutes

Tuesday, September 27, 2022 6 pm

Leffler House Living Room

Dinner hosts: Scott H., Kathy M., Lynne

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; Wayne Duncan; Scott Hulet; Kristen Kelly; Scott Kovacs; 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; and Doug Thorpe

Vestry Members Absent

Carmen Brady; Tina Blondino, Diocesan Member; and The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison, Bishop's Representative

Officers Present

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer and Re Knack, Chancellor

Officers Absent

Barbara Erickson, Clerk

Staff Members Present

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

Call to Order, Land Acknowledgment, Prayer

Steve opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgment followed by a prayer at 6:01 PM.

There was discussion to revisit the format of gathering for Vestry meetings with interest in returning to every month in person. Earlier in the year the group decided to meet via Zoom with a quarterly in-person option that included a meal (March, June, September and December). Additional options were shared including going every other month, which would change the November meeting to in-person. However, with rehearsal for O Antiphons, travel in November over Thanksgiving week, and the desire to meet in person in December, **a motion to meet in-**

person for October and December (with Owl-based option) and meet via Zoom in November was made, seconded and approved.

Erik then coordinated volunteers for October (Emily, Doug, Kathy W.) and December (Re, Katie) meals. In 2023, the newly constituted Vestry will re-assess the meeting format.

Strategic Conversation: Housing Development on Cathedral Campus

Due to illness, the strategic conversation on Creation Care facilitated by Canon Jennifer King Daugherty was postponed until November.

Steve shared the final report of the St. Nicholas Exploratory Committee in advance of the meeting, inviting Vestry members to review the document with special attention to the summary of page 1. The discussion picked up the question regarding campus development, affordable housing and the future of the St. Nicholas property. The conversation ranged in questions and comments, including:

- Initial concern about the sunk costs accruing from investing in property maintenance of St. Nicholas without promise of ROI. What is the plan in the interim before a decision is made? Steve reminded the group of the complexities of the situation as Saint Mark's relies on the rental revenue and lease streams. However, the reality is that it could take \$5-7 million in work to make the building amenable for future tenants. We don't currently have a financial structure in our leases to finance at that level.
- Questions about the work at St. Luke's Ballard, which will be starting its affordable housing and market rate housing project after multiple years of collaboration and preparation. Saint Mark's is not in the same situation as St. Luke's because of restrictions regarding upzoning in a residential neighborhood.
- Several previous members of the St. Nicholas Exploratory Committee are still on vestry. They shared background and scope of the committee's work including testing the market for market rate housing, which did not bear what was anticipated or find missional resonance, and also confirming that affordable housing was not tested.
- Some common themes of visioning included intentionally celebrating community on campus and how we go out into the community. A focus on community touches each of our mutual ministry goals.
- Community organizations that could be additional reference points are Plymouth Housing, Plymouth Healing Communities and Sacred Spaces.

The conversation was not intended for a final decision on action but affirmed that external expertise is needed to move more strategically into this conversation.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to charge the staff and vestry leadership to create a structure to study the campus development broadly and St. Nicholas disposition narrowly with consultation support.

OLD BUSINESS

St. Nicholas Repairs Update

Kathy W. has been overseeing the vacuum pump installation and this appears to be ready. On Thursday, September 29, Solarc will be on campus, showing the controls and system for further assessment and testing. The roof repairs are scheduled for October.

There has been discussion from tenants at St. Nick to build a fence in the lower playground behind the school as a safety measure. Amistad is also considering a dedicated play area.

Deanery repairs update

After approval from Vestry in August, the Deanery roof is scheduled to start in November and is estimated to take 6-8 days. Emily shared that each month the maintenance spreadsheet is reviewed for priority and progress. There will be further engagement with David on tackling the “A” tasks (Low resource item, work order, preventative maintenance). One recent example of these “A” tasks is a new washer and dryer that is now replaced after issues of flooding occurred following Steve and Kathy’s return from traveling.

Pre-design work

The committee continues to meet with an architect and recently met to review initial ideas. The focus will be interior infrastructure related to Creation Care with some aesthetic standardization of the room. The group will meet again in November.

Stewardship Fall Pledge Appeal

Chris shared that Sunday, October 2 is the launch of the Stewardship campaign, “Trusting in God, Growing in Faith.” Letters are ready to be mailed with a target mail drop date of Thursday, September 29. Steve has signed all 1,100+ of these by hand! Vestry members are invited to complete and turn in promptly after receiving.

Land Acknowledgement

Kathy M. provided background on the development of the land acknowledgment at Saint Mark’s, initially approved in April 2021 by the vestry to use at cathedral events, services and programs. Recently, at cathedral events or meetings which encompass lands beyond Seattle, such as ordinations or special workshops, a version acknowledging all Coast Salish Tribes has been used.

At the Dean's request, a committee – the Duwamish Restorative Justice Affinity Group – formed and met for the first time September 19, 2022. The first task was to review the land acknowledgment to consider adding language of the Coast Salish. The group ultimately discussed two versions 1) adding “the life of all Coast Salish Tribes” 2) adding “the life of all Coast Salish Tribes” and removing the second reference of Duwamish Tribe. The first option was initially presented to Vestry. After further discussion, it was decided that this did not read as well as what had been used in recent diocesan events held at the cathedral.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the language as follows for a modified land acknowledgment: *“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 all the Coast Salish Tribes.”*

Kathy and Emily will develop a communications plan for distributing, including a revised land acknowledgment guidelines document.

Kathy and Emily also shared that conversation in the committee also involved placement of the land acknowledgment in the service or incorporating language into other aspects of worship. If there is a specific follow-up ask, this would be something that could be taken for discussion to the Worship and Prayer Committee. Ultimately, it is under the direction of the rector and canonical policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Planning for 2023 Budget Cycle

The Finance Committee and Vestry members will see a draft on the expense side of things in October. We will need to see what our pledge base will be, but Steve shared that this will be a tight budget year due to COLA increases (expected at 10%) and the loss of a few pledging members who have died, moved away, etc.

Indigenous Peoples’ Day observance 10/9

Steve asked the TEC Office of Indigenous Ministries for resources (rubric, prayers of the people, preacher invited to share in the sermon) to incorporate into the liturgy on Sunday, October 9. This is the day before the observed Indigenous People’s Day and would be similar to modifications we have made prior to MLK Jr. Day and Juneteenth.

Legacy Giving Workshop 11/19 with Bishop Rickel

Steve shared that the Legacy Giving Workshop with Bishop Rickel will be held on Saturday, November 19 in Bloedel Hall at 9:30 a.m. This is a collaboration event with the Diocese of Olympia and topics will discuss types of legacy giving.

Diocesan Convention Exhibit Booth

Emily shared that Vestry will host a booth at Diocesan Convention on Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22. Volunteers are needed for Friday (10 am - 5 pm) and Saturday (10 am - 2 pm). Delegates will only be allowed in the convention hall room itself but the exhibits will be outside of the hall and open to all (including the alternates and guests who choose to attend in-person). Doug and Chris volunteered to join Emily. Emily to follow up with more information.

Safe Church Training Updates

The Diocese has adopted a new approach to support TEC's Safe Church program. Universal Training is now offered for certification for Children/Youth and Vulnerable Adults and involves nine courses. This training is not required if already certified but will be required when renewing. Re and Stephen Eddy are working on retooling a document to create one functioning version.

After new business was presented, a motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the minutes from the August 23, 2022 Vestry meeting as published.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Senior Warden

- 20s/30s: Summer event highlights included Explore Bainbridge Day. The group visited St. Barnabas and the Japanese Exclusion Memorial before arriving at the home of Scott Hulet and John Simmon for lunch and a hike to the Halls Hill Labyrinth. Additionally, Heart of the Table at Nurturing Roots brought 20 young adults together for a farm to table dinner liturgy in Beacon Hill.
- Inquirers' Classes have resumed with in person attendance outnumbering Zoom.
- Gratitude for participation in the final Tent City Dinner with appreciation for the organization and smooth process in being a volunteer.
- [Vestry page](#) on saintmarks.org now includes mutual ministry and committee areas of focus.

- Outreach to those who engage via livestream and Zoom only continues. Emily will have a summary to share with Vestry of her learnings.
- Sunday, October 2 will be the start of a Vestry representative attending Newcomer's Coffee with Deacon Earl each month over the next year.
- Coordinating Beyond the Badge participation with parishioners to attend SPD precinct dialogues in conjunction with Steve and Kathy. The goal is to restore confidence in response times and build relationship. Carmen shared this opportunity to participate initially and has joined a similar session.

Dean's Report

- There are several notes of thanks: Kelly Moody's update from the School of Theology in Sewanee, TN; AFEDJ for \$500 for Ahli Hospital, and the ICS for providing lunches for hygiene center guests.
 - The Baptism and Necrology list collectively shares all of the names of those who have been baptized and deaths/burials. From October 1, 2021-September 23, 2022, there were **21** baptisms and **18** deaths.
 - Steve expressed gratitude for the prayers and support received following the death of Kathy's sister and in Steve's post-surgery recovery. He is grateful for the opportunity to celebrate Ila's upcoming baptism.
 - Steve reiterated about the launch of Stewardship. A pledge appeal is never about building a church budget but about giving as recognition that all gifts come from God. He invited Vestry to submit pledges after receiving the Stewardship package in the mail.
 - On Sunday, November 6 there will be a special Choral Evensong in recognition and celebration of the ministry of Bishop Rickel and Marti Rickel. The Diocese is collaborating on the reception to follow. Vestry members are encouraged to attend.
 - On Monday, November 7, there will be a Pre-Election Prayer Vigil at 7 p.m. hosted at Saint Mark's in collaboration with our partners at St. James Cathedral, First AME and Temple de Hirsch.
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MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORTS

Worship & Prayer

See minutes in Dropbox. Scott shared that there are many wonderful services ahead with

highlights including Baptisms on All Saints (November 6), Taize (November 8), O Antiphons (November 27), Blue Christmas (now December 18) and Pageant of the Nativity (December 20). Scott referenced the article the committee read together, "The Purpose of Cathedrals" by The Very Rev. Gary Hall.

Finance

See minutes in Dropbox. Lynne reiterated the upcoming budget discussions Steve had shared. The current budget is going fairly well except for maintenance and repair costs.

Facilities

See minutes in Dropbox.

Stewardship

See minutes in Dropbox and look for the launch of the campaign in your mailbox. The gratitude installation will also be returning..

Creation Care & Carbon Reduction

See minutes in Dropbox. The committee is anticipating a Creation Care Retreat on Saturday, October 15 facilitated by Rev. Stephen Crippen and the Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty. Creation Care continues to host ongoing "Climate Conversations" featuring a different topic/focus on the first Tuesdays.

Innovative & Intergenerational Community

Emily shared that the "pop-up" 20s/30s/60s+ dinner went well with 12 attendees (six 20s/30s and six 60s+). This seems like a template to recreate, and she will be gathering additional input from the group in an informal survey.

Kristen shared that she has been working with Wendy in thinking through how to further integrate kids into event programming. There was a survey sent to families to get a sense of what types of things they would like to see and the results vary – with some wanting more structure and others still not having returned to church. Godly Play will return on Sunday mornings. She is looking at opportunities to have conversations with families about the Carbon Tracker.

Upcoming events: Blessing of the Animals for Feast of St. Francis on the labyrinth (October 1), Children's Chapel (October 3) and Pizza Lunch/Movie Screening of *Secret of Kells* (October 30).

Restorative Justice & Systemic Change

See minutes in Dropbox. The Restorative Justice Council meetings are cultivating conversation

on deep topics. There was a Mideast Focus event on Saturday featuring Rev. Richard “Dick” Toll. Dick served at the cathedral under Dean Cabby Tennis from 1976 through 1984 whose work also included serving as the national program director of Friends of Sabeel N.A.

Communications

The meeting focus was on website maintenance/curation and optimization.

Emily invited the group to reflect on the mutual ministry goals of Creation Care and Carbon Reduction, Restorative Justice and Systemic Change, and Innovative and Intergenerational Committee. Topics that surfaced included: the land acknowledgment discussion, senior warden report mentioning Seattle Police Department, Dick Toll, Indigenous Peoples Day, updates to Safe Church, Palestinian work and the strategic conversation on redevelopment and housing.

Emily led the check out and a closing prayer (submitted by Carmen). The meeting was adjourned by 8 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Meeks
Senior Warden

Erik Donner
Executive Assistant

Dates/Events of Note

- 10/2 - Stewardship Launch
- 10/30 - Stewardship Ingathering
- 11/6 - Special Evensong and Reception for Bishop Rickel