



## April Vestry Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 6pm  
Diocesan House Council Room  
Dinner hosts: Carmen & Justin

*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.*

### **Vestry Members Present**

Tina Blondino, Diocesan Member (Zoom)  
Carmen Brady  
Wayne Duncan (Zoom)  
Greg Hamm, Junior Warden  
Scott Hulet, Senior Warden  
Becky Kacel, Diocesan Member  
Kristen Kelly  
Scott Kovacs, Junior Warden  
Justin Mills  
Kathy Minsch (Zoom)  
Chris Rigos, Junior Warden  
Peter Snyder  
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean  
Alexandra Thompson (Zoom)  
Doug Thorpe

### **Vestry Members Absent**

The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison, Bishop's Representative  
Katie Prettyman, Diocesan Member

### **Officers Present**

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer  
Barbara Erickson, Clerk  
Re Knack, Chancellor (Zoom)

### **Staff Members Present**

Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator

### **Call to Order, Land Acknowledgment, Prayer, Review of Agenda**

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

### **Approval of March 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the March minutes as presented.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION OF THE VESTRY**

The Vestry went into Executive Session. The Cathedral Administrator, the Treasurer, and the Clerk were excused for this portion of the meeting.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Mutual Ministry Goals**

The Executive Committee's conversation about identifying metrics for the Mutual Ministry goals moved in the direction of a strategic plan. Our current Strategic Plan was developed in February 2020 – pre-Covid. A task force will be formed to update the Strategic Plan, for the next 24 months, along with Mutual Ministry Goals that are the initiatives of that plan. The task force will consist of Senior Warden Scott Hulet, Greg Hamm, Kathy Minsch, Chris Rigos, Alexandra Thompson along with yet to be named staff support and stakeholders.

**Motion was made, seconded, and carried for the leadership to convene a task force to develop an 18 – 24-month Strategic Plan/Operational Plan with the Mutual Ministry Goals orienting that effort.**

### **Affordable Housing Exploratory Committee Update**

Dean Thomason and committee co-chairs John Hoerster and Emily Meeks met with consultant, Tory Laughlin Taylor, who has identified three potential architects who may help with basic scaling of the Saint Nicholas project. Geotech involvement will be included as the land slope will determine how much of the footprint can be developed. Dean Thomason is meeting with Trinity Church Wall Street, who are inviting us to apply for a grant that would underwrite the feasibility study of the work. The committee is reviewing two aspects of the property usage – affordable home ownership or affordable rental property. Both options provide challenges that need to be reviewed and discussed.

### **Audit/Review Process Update**

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer, reported that the Audit Review is underway and as there are not many variants, should be a speedy review.

### **Healthy Communication Document Update**

Scott Hulet, Scott Kovacs, Kathy Minsch, and Dean Thomason met in March, and have a meeting scheduled for early May. The Healthy Communication Document will be available for the May Vestry meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Parochial Report**

Dean Thomason reviewed the contents of the 2022 Parochial Report.

**A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the 2022 Parochial Report as presented.**

### **Pay Down Banner Bank Loan**

Dean Thomason reported that the Finance Committee recommends the Vestry approve the motion to authorize the pay down of the Living Stones Campaign debt by \$100,000. Their rationale is interest rates on the loan are rising, we have the funds available, and the possibility of a future capital campaign.

**The recommendation from the Finance Committee that the vestry authorize the pay down of the Living Stones Campaign debt of \$100,000.00 was carried.**

### **Nave Lighting Updates**

Dean Thomason reported that the Executive Committee has a definitive proposal to move to dimmable LED ceiling lights – not the chandelier lights. The plan addresses the lighting in the nave, the platform, and McCaw Chapel at a cost of \$65,000. This would be capitalized and depreciated as an expense. The return on investment is estimated at 2.5 years with energy savings seen in less than two years. The Gallery and Compline corner lighting have been addressed.

**Motion from the Executive Committee requests the Vestry authorize the move to a fully dimmable LED lighting system in the nave was carried.**

### **Bloedel Roof Replacement**

Dean Thomason reported that Bloedel Hall's roof is at "life's end", and we have been advised by two different roofing companies that it should be replaced. The estimates from the roofing companies was within \$500 of each other – in the neighborhood of \$35,000.

**A motion was made by the Executive Committee to recommend that the Vestry authorize the Bloedel roof replacement was carried.**

### **Bloedel Renovations**

Dean Thomason reported that a \$250,000 gift has been received from a member of the Bloedel family. The money is to be used to renovate and update Bloedel Hall. A project committee is being convened to scope out the design and prioritize the work which may include replacing the windows, overlaying the tile floors (asbestos) with laminated wood flooring, updating the restrooms on either side of the stage, updates to the kitchen and an update to the sound system and panels. Chase Silver from Windermere Property Management will be the project manager.

### **Land Acknowledgment and Newcomer Coffee Hosts**

Through an oversight, the new Vestry members were not asked to read the *Land Acknowledgment* on a Sunday, if interested. The readings have been broadened to include other ministries; vestry members are encouraged to sign up. Please let Erik know within the next two days if you would like to be added to the Rota. Vestry members are also encouraged to attend the *Newcomer's Coffee Hour* hosted by Deacon Earl held on the first Sunday of each month. Scott Hulet will put together a Rota for the Newcomers Coffee Hour.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

### **Senior Warden**

- Amazed at the cathedral and grateful to serve with you.
- First Cathedral Day and the day of his confirmation; true blessing as one of 70 from the diocese being confirmed or received; 1/3 of the attendees were from Saint Mark's, part of the good work that is happening and is grateful the Spirit touched his life.
- In the Pre-meeting, The Most Rev. Melissa Skelton, Bishop Provisional, shared the impact on her from letters received from the candidates; one of the themes were people who had been profoundly hurt and feeling unwelcome in previous church settings and the welcome they received in the Episcopal Church. Blessing to be a part of Cathedral Day and to know that God is at work, hearts being are changed, thanks be to God.

### **Dean**

- Bishop Skelton was overwhelmed with gratitude with what she saw at Cathedral Day. New experience. Food trucks were a hit.
- Cathedral Foundation's disbursement, annual 4% draw for buildings and grounds and underwrites the Patty Garden and the lawn, should arrive early next month.
- Memphis meeting with the clergy colleague group of 16 was great. Speakers, narrative reflections, dynamic group.
- Leave early Wednesday morning to go to the North American Deans' Conference at the National Cathedral. About 100 deans plus spouses from Canada, the US, and the Caribbean attend. A collegial atmosphere exists.
- Files of Note—  
Worshiping trends, lively worshiping group online—estimated 2,000 worshippers per week.

### **Ministry/Committee Reports**

- **Worship & Prayer**—Met to review how services were going; will meet again in June. Worship training for liturgical ministers was well attended and good feedback received.
- **Finance**—Cathedral Foundation grant will be received on May 12. Diseased elm tree removal was a large budget item but came in less than anticipated. Wind down of Seattle Service Corps. Only \$100 was donated to the Carbon Offset Fund in Q1 2023; staff going on a cathedral business or education trip, donations will be made; Vestry is welcome to contribute; carbon offset is a line item in the budget.

- **Facilities**—There is a new garden on campus, southside of the cathedral, dedicated to work with Wendy Barrie and the intergenerational group; Emergency Plan Subcommittee meeting next Tuesday to revise the plan. Belay and harness climbing equipment will be added to the plan.
- **Stewardship**—Tent City 3 is returning, planning to provide weekly Sunday night dinner. Stewardship is coming out of hibernation; first meeting held – minutes coming, Peter Snyder joined the committee, would like to see younger people join the committee, do not have to be vestry members.
- **Creation Care**—Arthur Lee from the Taizé service needs volunteers. Greenbelt stewards provide opportunities to get more involved with the greenbelt.
- **Intergenerational Council**—Met end of March, Wendy Barrie has done a good deal, Creation Care/Intergenerational Forum; upcoming collaboration with Creation Care, summertime activities, neighborhood Eucharist, intergenerational urban hikes; Eat, Pray, Love coming up and Lawn Bowling.
- **Restorative Justice Council**—overlap of the water theme with Cathedral Day, Creation Care and Mideast Focus. Mideast Focus is hosting Miko Peled, Israeli-American activist and author as well as Maya Garner, advocate for justice in Palestine on Saturday, May 20 at 2pm in Bloedel Hall.

#### **Reflection: Mutual Ministry Annual Review**

- Lighting fixtures impact on energy use
- Bloedel window replacements
- Discussion about intergenerational and creation care
- Cathedral Day discussions
- Affordable housing and meeting housing needs
- Tent City

#### **CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER**

Checkouts were given, and the closing prayer was given by Alexandra Thompson. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson  
Clerk

Erik Donner  
Cathedral Administrator

#### **Dates/Events of note**

- 5/28 Pentecost
- 6/21 Priest Ordinations