



**March Vestry Meeting  
Minutes  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 6PM  
Leffler House Living Room**

*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  
The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison, Bishop's Representative  
Wayne Duncan  
Greg Hamm, Junior Warden (Zoom)  
Scott Hulet, Senior Warden  
Becky Kacel, Diocesan Member  
Kristen Kelly  
Scott Kovacs, Junior Warden  
Justin Mills  
Kathy Minsch  
Katie Prettyman, Diocesan Member (Zoom)  
Chris Rigos, Junior Warden  
Peter Snyder  
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean  
Alexandra Thompson  
Doug Thorpe

**Officers Present**

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

**Staff Members Present**

Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator  
The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker, Curate

**Guests**

Lisa Graumlich  
John Hoerster (Zoom)  
Emily Meeks (Zoom)

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

Dean Thomason opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgment followed by a prayer at 6:02 PM.

**Approval of Annual Meeting and February Vestry Retreat Minutes**

**A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adopt the January 24, 2023 Vestry meeting minutes.**

**A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adopt the February 5, 2023 Annual Parish meeting minutes.**

**A motion was made, seconded, and approved to adopt the February 11, 2023 Vestry Retreat minutes.**

Dean Thomason then led a discussion about where future Vestry meetings should take place—Leffler House Living Room or the Council Room at Diocesan House (which was used pre-COVID). The Vestry selected the Council Room, and if available, it will be reserved for future meetings. Thank you to Scott Hulet and Chris Rigos for preparing the evening meal. Erik Donner will be assigning Vestry members to prepare meals for each of the vestry monthly meetings.

### **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Lisa Graumlich Support for Ordination to Diaconate.

Dean Thomason introduced Lisa Graumlich, sponsored by Saint Mark's Cathedral, and assigned to Trinity Parish, who shared her story and provided an opportunity for the Vestry to get to know her.

**A motion was made, seconded, and approved to sign the Minister & Vestry Letter of Support for Ordination to the Diaconate for Lisa Graumlich.**

### **Congregational Support Letters for Phillip Lienau and Robert Stevens**

Dean Thomason also asked the Vestry to reaffirm its commitment to contribute financially to both Phillip Lienau and Robert Stevens.

**The motion to reaffirm our commitment to contribute financially toward Robert Stevens' candidacy was approved.**

**The motion to sign and reaffirm our commitment to contribute financially toward Phillip Lienau's support for candidacy was moved, seconded, and passed.**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Mutual Ministry Goals**

Scott Hulet led a discussion by asking the question: Do our current Ministry goals articulate and guide where the Spirit is calling us in Ministry this year? The common thread of thought by Vestry indicates all three ministries are not separate from one another, but in fact are "components" of each. The goals, specifically *Restorative Justice and Systemic Change* and *Innovative and Intergenerational Community*, are unconsciously "dissipated" the way they are currently written which seems to hinder some action from being taken. The thought is that the Intergenerational and Restorative Justice Councils could review the goals and then identify metrics for these goals. Kristin and Carmen will take back to their respective Councils.

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

John Hoerster and Emily Meeks provided an update and the next steps respectively. The Committee remains committed to pursuing affordable housing, and their first step is to confirm the Vestry is still interested in seeing the St. Nicholas Building as an affordable housing site and a formal feasibility study be pursued. Emily provided background on Tory Laughlin Taylor, who has been selected as our consultant to guide this phase. The Vestry is asked to consider and approve the recommendation to retain her. Discussion took place because of various questions from the vestry members.

**A motion was made, seconded, and passed by the Vestry that based on the exploration and discernment in which we have engaged since December 2022, we confirm our strong interest in using St. Nicholas for affordable housing and recommend to the Vestry moving forward with a "formal" feasibility assessment on the basis outlined in our "Steps Forward on Affordable Housing" memo dated March 27, 2023.**

**A motion was made, seconded, and passed by the Vestry that Tory Laughlin Taylor be engaged as our consultant, initially to work with us on the following first stages of process: conduct a feasibility exploration to scope out the spectrum of affordable housing development scenarios; and, identify and quantify the range of impacts achievable by Saint Mark's from the spectrum of opportunities. Unless reimbursed by grant funds, the cost of these services will not exceed \$10,000 without further approval by the Vestry.**

### **Property Management Update/Workflows/Staffing**

Chase Silver and Riley Gill from Windermere Property Management are doing great work. A substantial sewer backup in the Amistad portion of the building. Chase and the plumber were onsite within an hour of the report being issued, the mitigation crew within three hours on a Friday afternoon. Chase kept the Dean updated. Repair costs range around \$100,000 which our insurance covers. The work will begin Wednesday, March 29.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Audit Process**

Lynne Cobb reported the preliminary financial review of 2022 has been accomplished by CliftonLarsonAllen with Stephen Eddy's assistance. The review process will take place beginning mid-April – the delay is due to CLA's staffing issues.

### **COVID Protocols as of May 11**

Dean Thomason reports that the Federal Government, the CDC, and King County Public Health Department are ending COVID emergency protocols on May 11, 2023. In discussions with the wardens and senior staff, all COVID protocols and requirements/recommendations for the Cathedral will also end as of May 11, 2023.

### **TEC Racial Audit Forum April 12**

A racial audit was performed by the Episcopal Church with Mission Institute two years ago. Saint Mark's is holding an educational forum on the results of the racial audit. Parishioner Vinh Do and The Rev. Canon Carla Robinson are co-facilitators. The Dean encourages the Vestry to attend this hybrid session.

### **St. Nicholas Communications**

Dean Thomason, in consultation with chancellor Re Knack, shares that the parish will be kept informed about the operational and maintenance challenges with the St. Nicholas Building.

### **December 2023 Vestry Meeting Date**

Scheduling conflicts with the Pageant of the Nativity, now to be held on Wednesday, December 20, brings the question of shall the Vestry meet on Tuesday, December 12 as originally scheduled or on Tuesday, December 19. Conflicts with both dates were discussed and for now will remain on Tuesday, December 12.

### **Healthy Communications**

Kathy Minsch, Scott Hulet, Scott Kovacs, and Dean Thomason are working on a document incorporating healthy communication patterns for vestry consideration based on Bishop Rickel's 10 Rules for Respect.

### **Tent City 3**

Dean Thomason reported that SHARE/WHEEL has reached out to Saint Mark's asking if they may come back this summer. We are delighted to have them back. Anticipated arrival is Saturday, June 17 with their departure either Saturday, September 9 or earlier in that week. Chris Rigos added that the Meal Sharing Ministry will be meeting to discuss how we can be of service.

### **Vestry Liaisons to Committee/Ministry**

Scott Hulet reflected on his first year on the Vestry and how the *Standing Committee of the Vestry Overview* (Dropbox>Resource Documents>Vestry New Member Orientation Files) provides a descriptor of what the “liaison” role is. “A vestry liaison is a bridge between the work of the committee and the other members of vestry.” Scott views this as a bridge plus – communicate to the vestry energies and passions of the committee and to communicate to the committee the vestry’s support and affection, and sometimes in a pastoral role.

### **Amicus brief for Duwamish appeal for Fed. Recognition**

Dean Thomason explained the Duwamish are seeking federal recognition as a tribe. Their attorneys approached Saint Mark’s and a few other organizations to see if we would be willing to sign an amicus brief in support of their appeal. Chancellor Re Knack explained the “brief”; attorney is being sought to write the brief; once written, we would be asked to sign quickly as filing is anticipated mid-May timeframe.

**A motion was made, seconded, and passed that the Vestry authorizes Chancellor Knack to sign the amicus brief pending legal review.**

### **Parochial Report**

Dean Thomason reported that the annual Parochial Report will be available for the April Vestry meeting.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

### **Senior Warden**

- Grateful to serve with vestry, for Saint Mark’s and the ministry of this place, and what it means to him personally.
- Learning the rhythm of the meetings he is being invited.
- Pledge prayers for the vestry.

### **Dean**

- 30 were on the pilgrimage, topic of the Wednesday, March 29 Cathedral Commons forum.
- Sewer backup challenges and elm tree removal at the St. Nicholas building, new tree will be planted when appropriate.
- Holy Week is coming, staff are very weary, excited, stimulated, and weary.
- Rebekah Gilmore first midlevel manager to take vestry approved sabbatical from mid-April to mid-June to Galway, Ireland, and the Northwest to visit choir programs. Her plans can be found in the Dropbox.
- Two trips in April – week of April 16 to the annual Clergy Conference in Memphis, TN; April 24 week to the National Cathedral for the North American Deans’ Conference.
- Young Adult and Campus Ministries grant applied for and obtained by Emily Meeks.

### **Ministry/Committee Reports**

- **Finance**—Looking few more members who are not on the vestry.
- **Facilities**—Emergency supplies are located in closet near women’s restroom.
- **Stewardship**—First meeting will be in April.
- **Creation Care**—Retreat minutes reflect a list of prioritized ideas.
- **Restorative Justice Council**—Doug represented the Council and Cathedral at an event and offers a recommendation for *Seattle from the Margins* by Megan Asaka.
- **Communications**—Committee will meet after Easter.

## **CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER**

Checkouts were given, and the closing prayer was given by Kathy Minsch. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson  
Clerk

Erik Donner  
Cathedral Administrator

Dates/Events of note

- 4/12 Forum on TEC Racial Audit
- 4/22 Cathedral Day