



## May Vestry Meeting

### Minutes

Tuesday, May 23, 2023 6pm

Diocesan House Council Room

Dinner hosts: Re & Greg

*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**

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

#### **Vestry Members Absent**

Tina Blondino, Diocesan Member  
The Rev. Canon Arienne Davison, Bishop's Representative

#### **Officers Present**

Barbara Erickson, Clerk  
Re Knack, Chancellor

#### **Officers Absent**

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer

#### **Staff Members Present**

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

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

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

#### **Approval of April 25 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the April 25, 2023 minutes as published.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Strategic Planning Process**

Committee members have been identified as Kathy Minsch, Alexandra Thompson, Doug Thorpe, Scott Hulet, and Dean Thomason from Vestry; Michael Kleinschmidt, Wendy Claire Barrie, and The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker from staff; Emily Meeks, Michael Perera, Julia Logan, Seyi Akanni, and Elli Howard are members at large. The committee's first meeting will occur in June or July.

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

John Hoerster, Emily Meeks, Tory Laughlin Taylor, and Dean Thomason meet weekly. Current efforts are focused on securing architects to do the scaling of the property for budgetary purposes. Application submitted for a grant through Enterprise Community Partners, which is administered by the City of Seattle but funded by Amazon; it's for the feasibility study. A Wednesday evening and a Sunday morning forum will be held in September to share information with the parish. Dean Thomason reiterated that *no decisions have been made*.

### **Healthy Communication Document Update**

At the February Vestry Retreat, Kathy Minsch, Scott Hulet, Scott Kovacs, and Dean Thomason were charged to work on updating this living document. They pulled from a variety of sources to develop the 12 norms in the document. Each point was read by a Vestry member and robust conversation resulted. Items number 2, 3, 7, 8, and 10 are being reviewed/revise by the ad hoc committee.

### **Nave Lighting Updates**

Lights for the gallery and Compline corner have been ordered, the replacement of attic lights with LED lighting will be addressed next.

### **Bloedel Roof replacement**

Vestry approved the replacement of the Bloedel roof in April. Work is currently being done on the St. Nicholas roof issues, then moving to Bloedel Hall with work completion estimated within a couple weeks.

### **Bloedel Renovations**

\$250,000 gift was received for Bloedel hall and kitchen renovations. A committee is meeting, led by our property managers, Chase Silver and Riley Gill, to scope the project based on the funds available.

### **Platform Handrails**

New iron railings were installed last week, and expressions of gratitude for the safety now felt in moving up to the platform were received. The front center railing was removed to provide a better sightline for the livestream and other liturgical actions. With guidance from Ballard Ornamental Ironworks, Chris Brown applied colored epoxy to the rail holes in the stone for a seamless appearance.

### **Financial Review**

The Financial Review was received from the auditing firm and reviewed by the Finance Committee. Dean Thomason read the firm's Conclusion from the report. The vestry is asked to recommend the Finance Committee receive the report, finalize and forward to the Diocese of Olympia.

**Motion was made by the Finance Committee and recommended and passed by the Vestry to receive the 2022 Financial Review, finalize and forward to the Diocese of Olympia.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Tent City 3 on Campus June 17-Sept 9, 2023**

Chris Rigos reported that the Meals Ministry is staffing tables the next two Sundays after the 9:00am and 11:00am services to invite the parishioners to come greet, help serve dinner, and to meet our guests. Sunday evening meals will be served by various ministries. Scott Hulet is looking for 4 – 5 vestry members to adopt Sunday July 30 and August 20 as Vestry Sundays to enjoy this experience with our guests. Please contact Scott if you are interested.

### **Steve's Mini Sabbatical May 29-June 16, 2023**

With the wardens' concurrence, Dean Thomason is taking a mini sabbatical. The first week will focus on a future Creation Care Pilgrimage (Wisdom School) as the dean visits the Lower Elwha River and with the Makah Tribe, and the local restoration project on the Elwha River and the challenge in the rise in sea

levels and its impact on the indigenous tribes. The second week is a trip to Ireland to begin information gathering for the 2024 pilgrimage planning.

### **Diocesan “Convene” Gathering Sept 30, 2023**

Dean Thomason asks all to consider attending the Convene 2023 at Everett Community College. The Cathedral will be hosting or sponsoring one or two workshops – “be creative as you like” – ideas are solicited from the Vestry. Tent City 3 or Music Ministry or Creation Care were suggested. Pilgrimages, spiritual practices, or Healthy Communication were also suggested. No decisions were made.

### **Gun Violence Response, Active Shooter Training, Emergency Response Preparedness**

Dean Thomason reported that the Emergency Response Preparedness manual is being reviewed and updated and includes active shooter training. The Federal Government offers an onsite safety assessment that will be scheduled in July or August for the cathedral. Active Shooter Preparedness online training will be available for the staff, lay leaders, and ushers. An optional forum is being proposed for Sunday July 9 to address what the congregation can do if faced with aggression while at church. This will be a high-level directive using Run. Hide. Fight. guidance. The vestry agreed with these plans.

Scott Kovacs is taking the online active shooter training which is offered by the Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency (Department of Homeland Security). This will provide an opportunity to see how our current processes compare. A walk-thru with our current Emergency Preparedness document was done and pointed out how much has changed in the past three years.

### **Projection Project with ACLU**

Two years ago, with the approval of the vestry and in collaboration with the ACLU of WA, names of those who died at the hands of police violence locally, were projected onto the west wall of the cathedral. The ACLU has made a request to Saint Mark’s for another west wall project during Pride Month focusing on transgender identity and safety. The ACLU is recommending two lines: “Protect Trans Youth” and “Protect Trans Lives” be projected on the west wall beginning mid-June. A discussion by the vestry confirmed its support for the project.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

### **Senior Warden**

- Invitation from Doug Thorpe to consider a guided tour of Diocesan House before a vestry meeting.

### **Dean**

- Appointed to Bishop’s Search Committee and attended a two-day retreat. All matters are confidential until the slate of candidates is released in March 2024.
- Sunday May 28—Day of Pentecost with six baptisms.
- Saturday June 3—Wisdom School workshop with Dr. Christena Cleveland, *Mothered by God: Divine Feminine and the Black Madonna*.
- Saturday June 17—Juneteenth service with a BBQ on the cathedral grounds.
- Tuesday June 20—Seattle Service Corps farewell party.
- Wednesday June 21—Ordination of four priests at the cathedral.
- June 27 and August 22—Vestry member attendance at these meetings will be important as a quorum is necessary as the presentation reports from the discernment committees for Emily Meeks in June and Hannah Hochkeppel in August will be given. Also proposed there be no vestry meeting in July, unless matters dictate the need to meet.
- Guest preachers—Seminarians Phillip Lienau on June 18 and Robert Stevens on August 27.
- Sunday July 16—The Rev. Fadi Diab, Rector of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, Ramallah, will be preaching at both the 9:00am and 11:00am services, along with the “Friends Talking” forum with Dean Thomason at 10:10am.
- Files of note—Thank you notes received from the Washington Water Trust, American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and the Mission to Seafarers.

### **Ministry/Committee Reports**

- **Worship & Prayer**  
Attended the debrief meetings for Holy Week and Easter.
- **Finance**  
Experience with the current auditing firm was disappointing; communication improvements and consideration of a different firm were discussed. Financial reports reviewed, revenues are down, expenses up, but can be actively managed. \$100,000 insurance payment from the sewer incident, and St. Nicholas operation is still net positive.
- **Facilities**  
Chase Silver and Riley Gill from Windermere are incredible assets! The deferred maintenance list still exists, but they are tackling things that can be done now that are not on the deferred maintenance list including the Bloedel roof.
- **Stewardship**  
Working on choosing guest speakers for the campaign and selecting the theme – one that inspires us as stewards and to reflect where we think we are. Will meet in July and August and then increase number of meetings. Exploring an option of a gratitude exercise.
- **Creation Care**  
May 16 meeting and future meetings will begin with spiritual reflections. Climate Conversations are continuing and are now scheduled for the second Thursday of the month. The May topic is Practical Ways to Use Renewable Energy. The Creation Care newsletter has an open rate of 67%! Field trips to the Cedar River watershed, Skagit City Light, Skagit Valley Farms, and Seattle Recycling are being considered; signed up to provide Sunday evening meal to Tent City 3 on July 23.
- **Intergenerational Council**  
Met in March and will meet in June and new members are coming onboard. Activities coming up for Pentecost – Polar Plunge at Seward Park, beekeeper activity. 20s/30s group is very active. Looking for different ways of connecting different people and age groups.
- **Restorative Justice Council**  
Feeding Ministry monthly meeting involving work with St. Martin de Porres, Teen Feed, Saturday breakfast at First Covenant Church and Tent City; held the first of two Cathedral Commons events with The Rev. Canon Carla Robinson; May 20 Palestine on the Edge talk with Amnesty International, Mideast Focus Ministry, and Episcopal Bishop's Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land; Dr. Christena Cleveland program, Mothered by God, Saturday June 3; PrideFest booth June 25.
- **Communications**  
May 11 meeting for the first time with Greg Bloch, Director of Communications, providing an overview of what is working well and opportunities for improvement; June meeting will focus on defining the committee's role, developing goals, and discussing areas of communication that support Mutual Ministry Goals.

## **REFLECTION: MUTUAL MINISTRY ANNUAL REVIEW**

- Healthy Communications
- Projection Project
- Discussion of pilgrimage to the Lower Elwha River trip
- Updates on the nave lighting
- Hand railings

## **CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER**

Checkouts were given, and the closing prayer was given by Scott Kovacs. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson  
Clerk

Erik Donner  
Cathedral Administrator

Dates/Events of note

- 5/28 Pentecost
- 6/21 Priest Ordinations