



October Vestry Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 6pm
Zoom

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

Vestry Members Absent

Carmen Brady
Katie Prettyman, Diocesan Member

Officers Present

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer
Barbara Erickson, Clerk

Officers Absent

Re Knack, Chancellor

Staff Members Present

Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator
Emily Meeks, Special Projects Coordinator
The Rev. Canon Linzi Stahlecker, Curate

Dean Thomason opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgement and a prayer at 6:00 PM.

Approval of September 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the September 26, 2023 minutes as proposed.

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS: Strategic Planning Activity

Co-chairs Emily Meeks and Alexandra Thompson led an exercise using the Sources of Transformation model adapted from the College of Congregational Development, to explore transformation at Saint Mark's. The Committee begins their outreach to the parish with group ministry conversations through January 2024 and a parish-wide survey during the month of November. Alexandra asked Vestry members to answer the following three questions:

1. What are the gifts that this ministry [Vestry] has/offers/brings?
2. What changes or ideas could create new opportunities for transformation?
3. What resources or support do you need to deepen and expand this ministry (Vestry) as a source of transformation in the next 18-24 months?

Ministry Report: Finance

Greg Hamm reported that the committee met on Monday and from a financial standpoint, there is concern about pledges and the potential impact on our budget. The St. Nicholas Building's Fire Department inspection resulted in a large repair being identified. The Trinity Wall Street grant has arrived.

Lynn Cobb, Treasurer, reported that an engagement letter has been signed with CLA. There will be a 5% increase for the 2024 review, with the potential for a more expensive full audit in 2025.

NEW BUSINESS: 2024 Budgeting Plan

Dean Thomason shared the first draft for the budget will be reviewed in November with the Vestry being asked to adopt it at the December Vestry meeting. The Vestry members were also reminded that their financial commitment should be turned in at the Sunday, October 29 Ingathering.

OLD BUSINESS

Affordable Housing

Emily Meeks reported that the Trinity Wall Street grant for \$100,000 was received; Geotech work has been completed; cost assessment for the St. Nicholas Building is taking place; Emily, Steve and John Hoerster will be attending a virtual conference hosted by Trinity Church Wall Street in November focused on mission real estate development. The feedback from the September 13 Cathedral Commons forum on Affordable Housing can be found in the Dropbox – positive comments were heard. Some parishioners also expressed interest in learning more about opportunities to be part of the exploration process based on their professional background or interests.

Stewardship Appeal

Chris Rigos reported that there is one committee meeting left, and on Ingathering Sunday, Scott Hulett will be the speaker, and one Stewardship Reflection video. Peter, Wayne, and Erik were thanked for their help with this campaign.

Nave Lighting Project

Dean Thomason reported the work continues to convert to LED in gallery and the Compline Corner. The attic space will be updated this coming week. All this work will result in a substantial reduction in energy use.

On-site Caretaker/Security

Micah Clark, they/them, has been hired and is moving into Leffler House. Carriage House was broken into, but nothing was stolen. A door was damaged and is now repaired.

NEW BUSINESS

Thanksgiving Day Service and Feast

Dean Thomason talked about the open invitation to a Thanksgiving feast after the 10 a.m. Thanksgiving service. Saint Mark's is providing the turkey, families are invited to bring side dishes. This meal is prompted because we are a family to those who may not have family in the area and find this to be a lonely time.

St. Nicholas HVAC Vacuum Pump Replacement

Dean Thomason reports that the St. Nicholas HVAC system is a dual vacuum pump system and that one of the pumps failed and was replaced last year. The second pump failed and due to the time sensitive nature of the replacement, the Executive Committee can approve expenditures above \$5,000.00, authorizing the replacement of the pump at a cost of \$16,000.00 for the pump and labor.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to proceed with the replacement of the vacuum pump.

St. Nicholas Basement Restoration

Dean Thomason reported that the Seattle Fire Department made an unannounced visit to Amistad which resulted in the replacement of missing fire-retardant sheet rock in the basement. The cost is \$32,000.00 and is in process and due to be completed by the end of this week.

Letter of Support for Ordination of Phillip Lienau as Transitional Deacon

Dean Thomason reported that Phillip Lienau has met with The Most Rev. Melissa M. Skelton, and will be ordained a Transitional Deacon at Saint Mark's on Saturday, December 9.

A motion was made and carried to authorize the letter of support for Phillip Lienau to be ordained a Transitional Deacon.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Senior Warden

- Welcome back Steve, from vacation. Thank You to The Rev. Linzi Stahlecker and The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty for doing a great job.
- Gratitude to Chris Rigos, Wayne Duncan, and Peter Snyder on their Stewardship Campaign work, the diversity in the selection of speakers, and is offering prayers for our ministries and the hearts of our congregation.
- Great work in revisioning of Restorative Justice Council. Mission Statement draft has been developed and will be shared.
- Duwamish Ministry and Racial Justice meetings offers renewal of action.

Dean

- Good to be back and good to have gone to new area of Italy.
- Saturday, October 28 is the Diocesan Convention via Zoom.
- Ingathering takes place on Sunday, October 29.
- Eight baptisms are scheduled for the All Saints' Sunday baptisms on November 5.
- The Wisdom School offerings
 - Sacred Stories of Place, a conversation on Holy places and stories related by The Rev. Canon Jennifer King Daugherty on October 24.
 - Discerning Call with Killian Noe on November 8.
 - The Rev. Wil Gafney, Ph.D., Womanist Midrash & Biblical Interpretation on Saturday, December 2 and preaching on Sunday, December 3.

- Judy Andrews is receiving the Bishop's Cross Award at the Saturday Diocesan Convention.
- Mideast Focus Ministry (MEFM) has been in a period of discernment these past few months. The focus of their work is in parallel with the work of the Bishop's Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land.

MEFM's active leaders, who are also active in the Bishop's Committee, feel the timing is right to discontinue its activity at Saint Mark's as a ministry and transition its work and resources to the Bishop's Committee.

Doug Thorpe, Vestry member and co-chair of MEFM and member of the Bishop's Committee expressed the relationship and synergy between the two ministries will continue and be transparent. As an example of the future, Doug relayed that Michael Seewer, Liturgist, invited MEFM to participate in the Tuesday, November 14 service. Outreach to both the Cathedral and Bishop's Committee will occur.

Scott Hulett thanked Doug for the work and years of service that continues with this ministry.

- Files of Note – Bishop's Cross Award Letter to Judy Andrews
- Mideast Focus Ministry's Consolidation with the Episcopal Bishop's Committee for Justice and Peace in the Holy Land

Ministry/Committee Reports

- **Facilities**

Scott Kovacs informed us that Lambert House occupancy of the Carriage House is delayed.

- **Creation Care**

Kathy Minsch reported that Strategic Planning outreach went well and thanked everyone for attending the Creation Care Forum with Elizabeth Clark-Stern. The Greenbelt cleanup takes place on October 28 and November 18. Plans are underway for a Duwamish River trip and *The River that Made Seattle* is recommended by Doug Thorpe.

- **Intergenerational Council**

Alexandra Thompson mentioned the Bike Ride to Ballard with a trip to Mox Boarding House was a small group but enthusiastic turnout.

- **Communications**

Alexandra Thompson says Communications continues to make progress.

Reflection: Mutual Ministry Annual Review

- LED lamps in the Nave and Compline Corner
- Vestry online Zoom meeting*
- Restorative Justice with Duwamish
- Affordable Housing

*Dean Thomason followed up by asking the desire for Zoom based experience on occasion.

Vestry responded with the following:

- Open to meeting online, especially in the winter.
- Easier to have online.
- Meeting in person, occasional zoom.
- Everyone meeting on Zoom feels better than being the only person on Zoom; but miss the interpersonal interactions.
- Once every 3rd time.

Dean Thomason wrapped up by saying we will incorporate into organizing meeting in February. There are important issues for November and December so those will be held in person.

CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER

Checkouts were given, and the closing prayer was given by Peter Snyder. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson
Clerk

Erik Donner
Cathedral Administrator

Dates/Events of note:

10/28	Virtual Diocesan Convention
10/29	Stewardship Ingathering
11/5	All Saints' Sunday