



**SAINT MARK'S**  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

**June Vestry Meeting  
Minutes**

**Tuesday, June 25, 2024 6 p.m.**

**Leffler House**

**Dinner hosts: Christopher, Barbara & Julia**

*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**

Christopher Breunig  
Martha Craig  
Wayne Duncan  
Phil Haas, Junior Warden for Finance  
Greg Hamm, Senior Warden  
Scott Hulet (Zoom)  
Julia Logan, Junior Warden for Facilities  
Justin Mills  
Canon Valerie Reinke, Bishop's Representative  
Peter Snyder, Junior Warden for Stewardship  
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean  
Alexandra Thompson

**Vestry Members Absent**

Tina Blondino, Diocesan Member  
Becky Kacel, Diocesan Member  
Kristen Kelly  
Doug Thorpe  
The Rev. Gail Wheatley, Diocesan Member

**Officers Present**

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer (Zoom)  
Barbara Erickson, Clerk (Zoom)

**Officers Absent**

Re Knack, Chancellor

**Staff Members Present**

Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator

Dean Thomason opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgement and a prayer at 6:00 p.m. A thank you was extended to Christopher, Barbara and Julia for providing the meal.

**Approval of Vestry Meeting Minutes**

**A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the May 28, 2024 minutes as prepared.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

### **Financial Review**

Phil Haas, Junior Warden for Finance, reported that the 2023 Financial Review has been completed and the Finance Committee recommends the Vestry approve the Financial Review. Once approved, the Financial Review will be sent to the Diocese of Olympia. Dean Thomason expressed gratitude to Stephen Eddy, Bookkeeper, and Lynne Cobb, Treasurer, for the numerous hours they worked to produce the documents that went into the report.

**Motion was made and passed to accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to accept and forward the 2023 Financial Review to the Diocese of Olympia.**

### **Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia Financial Review**

Dean Thomason gave an informational overview of the Financial Review process for the Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia. As it is a separate corporation, a separate Financial Review is required and was completed by a Diocesan leadership team. No concerns were found but since the Foundation exists for the benefit of Saint Mark's Cathedral's buildings and grounds, a copy of their Financial Review can be found in the Vestry's Dropbox.

### **Strategic Plan Focus**

Alexandra Thompson, Vestry Liaison, invited the Vestry to into a conversation about how the Strategic Plan may work in their respective ministry. Observations from the discussion at their last ministry meeting ranged from feeling their way around the plan to how to incorporate it into their meeting, to trying to address one goal versus all six.

### **Staffing Updates**

Dean Thomason announced:

- The Rev. Emily Griffin, currently Senior Associate Rector at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Washington D. C., will join us as Canon Vicar of Saint Mark's Cathedral. Due to commitments at St. Alban's and with the Godly Play Foundation over the summer, Emily will begin on October 1.
- An offer was made and accepted for the Climate Justice Coordinator and Cathedral Grant Writer position. The announcement will be coming in mid-July. This is a five year grant funded position.
- Marc Aubertin begins his Cathedral Subdean role on July 1.
- Office location moves will also begin as Erik Donner and Dean Thomason move into their offices upstairs; Stephen Eddy and Christopher Brown, who will report to Marc, will be joining Marc in the downstairs office suite near the office volunteers.

### **Affordable Housing Update**

Dean Thomason reminded all that due to the market realities, a pause is taking place in seeking a developer, but the community engagement aspect is moving forward with the parish, the neighborhood, and the broader community which includes the Diocese of Olympia and community groups interested in affordable housing.

### **Capital Campaign**

Dean Thomason reported that a contract has been signed with Marc Rieke, Senior Consultant with The Enrichment Group. Dean Thomason and the wardens will meet with Marc Rieke on July 2. A feasibility study and the preliminary ground will be underway.'

### **Disability Awareness Education**

Dean Thomason thanked the vestry for the difficult conversation held at the May Vestry meeting and asked if you were not present, please read the May meeting minutes. The Dean also shared that within our parish, we have two human resource professionals, Michael Garrett and Genevieve Witherbee, who are interested in providing visibility awareness forums in the fall. Thank you to Wayne Duncan for his contact, and Marc Aubertin is reviewing an alert system for our exit driveway.

## **Vestry Meeting Location While Diocesan House Renovations**

Dean Thomason reported that due to renovations at the Diocesan House, it will not be available as a meeting place until October. The Diocesan staff continues to work during the construction and parking spaces on the north side of Saint Mark's have been allocated to them. Lambert House will be moving into Leffler House, so Leffler will not be available for Vestry meetings. Our August Vestry meeting will take place via Zoom with an assessment of whether to continue with Zoom or find a different option/venue.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **July and Nov/Dec Vestry Meetings**

Dean Thomason led the discussion about the Vestry meetings for the rest of the year. The Vestry meeting for July is canceled, but if a Vestry meeting is required, one will be called. It was also clarified that eight members present constitutes a quorum for an in-person or an online meeting while an electronic vote via email requires 100% participation.

The Vestry schedule for the rest of 2024 is:

- July 23 meeting is CANCELED
- August 27 via Zoom only
- September 24
- October 22
- November 26 meeting is CANCELED
- December 3 meeting rather than December 10
- January 21, 2025 meeting due to Annual Parish Meeting on January 26

### **Sacred Spaces—Cathedral as Pilgrimage**

Dean Thomason announced the launch of *Sacred Spaces* takes place on Monday July 8 through Sunday August 18. The Cathedral doors will be open with docents, art, music and other opportunities on Monday evenings wrapping Cathedral yoga, Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sundays from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Advertising for the event was placed in *The Stranger*, the Capitol Hill blog, with the University of Washington, senior living centers, and to the Diocese of Olympia.

### **Removal of Diseased Trees on Campus**

Dean Thomason informed the Vestry that an arborist surveyed the trees on the grounds. Several need pruning, but four trees are diseased, potentially a danger and need to be removed. Marc Aubertin has obtained two quotes for their removal: 1) Seattle Tree Care – \$42,000 and 2) Kemp West – \$38,000. Kemp West is being considered as they had previously removed the 100-year-old elm tree in front of the St. Nicholas Building and is licensed by the City of Seattle to work around the power lines.

**A motion was made, seconded, and passed to engage Kemp West to remove the diseased trees.**

### **Speidel Sculpture**

Dean Thomason provided an update on the gift from Julie Speidel. The footing for the sculpture will be poured in mid-July, and Artech will install the artwork in mid-August.

### **Tent City**

Dean Thomason announced that Tent City 3 will be arriving on Saturday, June 29 for its 17<sup>th</sup> year with us and will be staying through Saturday, September 7. They are a part of the SHARE/WHEEL network and are self-governing with an alcohol/drug free environment, and they decrease the “challenges” to our campus when they are onsite.

### **Stewardship Exercise**

Peter Snyder, Junior Warden for Stewardship, thanked everyone for participating in this exercise designed to provide insight into proportional giving. A review of the statistics showed the leadership needs to be courageous in talking about money; totaling the number of volunteer hours on behalf of the church would be interesting; there is no one-size fits all. The conversation ended with a note about a mid-year letter to the parish reminding all about pledges and the adoption of a budget deficit to support our ministries.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

### **Senior Warden**

- Interviewed three candidates for the open clergy position – one person was familiar with Saint Mark’s and the two others were not. There was a consistency in enthusiasm about Saint Mark’s Cathedral and it was refreshing to hear what they had to say. They were impressed with the breadth of what we do, our Strategic Plan, and there was an excitement about meeting the staff. We are very close to all of this, and it was interesting to have validation of our story and the picture that they saw of Saint Mark’s from afar.
- Gratitude to Dean Thomason for his ability to “close” as a shared vision of what the role can be was developed between the Dean and the candidate.

### **Dean**

- Operation Nightwatch is still very interested in space at the St. Nicholas Building; looking into the financial aspects; with a response by next week.
- Fr. Fadi Diab will be our guest speaker for our Sunday morning June 30 forum via Zoom. He will offer his perspective on the current situation, including the detainment of a member of his congregation by the Israeli military in April and who remains detained without charges.
- Expressed deep gratitude for all who helped with his 20-year Ordination Anniversary
- Funerals for Gwen Horne on Thursday, June 27 at 11 a.m. and The Rt. Rev. Vincent Warner, Bishop of Olympia on Saturday, July 13 at 1 p.m.
- Evensong on Friday, June 28 at 5 p.m. with the Royal School of Church Music camp.
- Sunday, September 1 at 4:30 p.m. – a special Evensong service offered in celebration of and thanksgiving for Bishop Melissa Skelton’s service as our Bishop Provisional.
- Sunday, September 15 at 4:30 p.m. – a special Evensong service with the seating of our new bishop, The Rev. Philip N. LaBelle.
- Center for Spirituality & Action is finalizing the print materials and will launch their opening at Leffler House this fall.
- A Moveable Feast: Neighborhood Gatherings are forming to allow parishioners to meet and dine together.
- Files of Note
  - Standing Committees of Vestry Overview
  - Diocesan Parking Signs on north side
  - Lowell Elementary. TY Card – for hosting a meal during Math Night.

## **MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Worship & Prayer**

Julia reported they met on June 9 and the next meeting is in September; reflection on Easter, Cathedral Day, discussed an article from Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord, MA, making changes to liturgy, positive discussion about services.

### **Finance**

Phil reported that revenues are up, hope to make another payment on bank loan if all goes well in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Lynne noted that new members of the committee have settled in and are adding value.

### **Facilities**

Julia reported that the May and June minutes are available, and the Garden Ministry has lots of good things going on; no July meeting; shout out to Marc Aubertin, Chris Brown, and Erik Donner, and the Garden crew and Habitat crew who all do extraordinary work! Shout out to wardens and immediate past Senior Warden Scott Hulet for providing food and help with the reception celebrating Steve's ordination anniversary.

### **Stewardship**

Peter noted the Stewardship reflection are now in the Cathedral Newsletter; September 28 is the all-parish kickoff campaign that includes Timothy Dombek, our stewardship consultant.

### **Intergenerational Council**

Martha provided the highlights of their June meeting. Minutes are in the Dropbox.

### **Restorative Justice Council**

Scott provided highlights of the Voter Registration drive and thanked Barbara Erickson and Christopher Breunig for his registration efforts at the Monday evening Cathedral Yoga, and Deborah Anderson for faithfully being at the Compline services. The second item of interest is that PrideFest is June 29 and Saint Mark's has a booth. There is a possibility that the Registration table will also be there. The booth is located between Roy and Mercer, if you are interested in signing up to help staff the table see the links in the Cathedral Newsletter.

### **Communications**

Alexandra reported that momentum is growing; a communications tool kit for lay ministries will be rolled out in September; Emily Meeks gifted them with a non-profit version of Canva Pro software to provide templates for visuals and Facebook which will be used with help from Greg Bloch.

## **NEW BUSINESS, continued**

### **Nominating Committee Candidates**

Late addition to the meeting by Dean Thomason. The Nominating Committee is charged by the vestry to seek and recruit nominees for the vestry elections and the Diocesan Convention delegates. Maria Coldwell and Scott Hulet as co-chairs, Carrie Davis, Jim Buskirk, Adrienne Hubbard, and one more person will be appointed at a later date.

**A motion was made, seconded and passed to appoint Maria Coldwell, Scott Hulet, Carrie Davis, Jim Buskirk, and Adrienne Hubbard to the Nominating Committee.**

## **CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER**

Checkouts were given, and the closing prayer was given by Wayne Duncan. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson  
Clerk

Erik Donner  
Cathedral Administrator