



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

**October Vestry Meeting
Minutes**

**Tuesday, October 22, 2024 6 p.m.
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
Wayne Duncan
Phil Haas, Junior Warden for Finance
Greg Hamm, Senior Warden
Scott Hulet
Becky Kacel, Diocesan Member
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
Doug Thorpe
The Rev. Gail Wheatley, Diocesan Member

Vestry Members Absent

Christopher Breunig
Martha Craig
Kristen Kelly

Officers Present

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer

Officers Absent

Barbara Erickson, Clerk
Re Knack, Chancellor

Staff Members Present

Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator
The Rev. Canon Emily Griffin, Canon Vicar

Dean Thomason opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgement and a prayer at 6:00 p.m. Canon Vicar Emily Griffin was welcomed to the meeting by Dean Thomason. Emily expressed her gratitude for the warm welcome and looks forward to walking with and supporting the Vestry.

Approval of Vestry Meeting Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the September 24, 2024 minutes with a friendly amendment to clarify the statement regarding the interaction of the Executive Committee and the Creation Care Ministry about what is required for holding a listening process.

Strategic Theme Check-in

Dean Thomason invited the Vestry to share thoughts on the 2024 Strategic Plan theme “Being Rooted in Spiritual Practices.”

We are formed by spiritual practices: prayer, worship, study, acts of justice, pilgrimage, retreat, generosity, Sabbath, and the care of Creation.

Shared thoughts:

- ✓ Daily Office APP new morning prayer
- ✓ Restorative Justice Council, Debie Thomas will lead a workshop in the spiritual practice of lament - Walking the Emmaus Road: A Journey from Lament to Hope
- ✓ every journey has the image of Pilgrimage
- ✓ Radix influences the morning EFM incorporates intercessory prayers; stewardship as a spiritual practice, recognizing everything we have is a gift
- ✓ the book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* written by Matthew Desmond as well as his second book, *Poverty, by America*
- ✓ interim pastor at a Lutheran Church, faithful parish without contemplative practices
- ✓ opening and closing prayer is meaningful, sets a different frame and adds connections
- ✓ asking for intercessory prayers
- ✓ pilgrimage to Ireland, the worship went with the group.

OLD BUSINESS

Affordable Housing Update

Dean Thomason reminded us that we are not totally in a dormant phase. Community planning and engagement are happening as well as cross-cultural training for the committee itself and communication lines with another developer is also opening.

Pre-design Update and Capital Campaign

Marc Rieke, Capital Campaign consultant, will be compiling a report for the wardens in mid-November and to be shared at the December 3rd Vestry Meeting. Pre-design committee is working with architect to establish design concepts for the nave interior, the narthex, and the Compline Corner. Based on the feasibility study, a better idea will be available of what can be done. The main gas boiler and the electrical system are beyond their life expectancy. The replacement of these two items may be a difficult narrative to convey in the campaign. David Wild, a professional videographer and usher, is excited to produce a campaign video.

Stewardship Update

Dean Thomason acknowledged Peter Snyder, Junior Warden for Stewardship, and his committee for the “incredible work setting us up for a really positive and successful campaign...” and to Erik Donnor who is now in the throes of handling all the records.

Peter mentioned the Gratitude Dinner was well received and successful, Greg Simon’s video on “proportional giving”, and ingathering this coming Sunday. Erik and the Dean reported that numbers were not yet available as the pledges continue to come in.

Emergency Women’s Shelter—Operation Nightwatch

Dean Thomason reported that renovation work has begun by Operation Nightwatch and may be completed by December or January.

Nominating Committee Update

Scott Hulet, Vestry Liaison, expressed gratitude for the progress being made by the committee—Carrie Davis, Jim Buskirk, Liz Shea, Adrienne Hubbard, Beatrix Hamm, and co-chair Maria Coldwell and Dean Thomason as ex officio. 11 of the 12 Convention Delegates candidates are confirmed, and there are three of eight confirmed candidates for the Vestry.

NEW BUSINESS

Draft Budget 2025

Even with the draft budget not available today, Dean Thomason expressed confidence in having it available for the Finance Committee in November and for the Vestry's December 3 meeting. Confidence exists on the expense side and if the pledge base predictions are right, a \$60,00 deficit budget will be recommended to the Vestry as manageable. 77% of our income comes from plate offerings and pledges which speaks to the generosity of the members and the challenges that exist in the coming decades to remain sustainable through endowments and other income sources.

Diocesan Convention Exhibit Table (Shared with Cathedral Foundation)

This being a shared exhibit table, Greg Hamm reported that the slide show of the cathedral will be shown at the table along with a selection of leaflets to help build awareness of the cathedral and unique things we offer. *The Rubric*, Strategic Plan, and Annual Report documents will be available along with the traditional cookies that are given out. Cookie donations can be brought to the cathedral office Wednesday and Thursday from 9 to 4:30 p.m.

Julia Logan reported the Cathedral Foundation of the Diocese of Olympia will have Planned Giving handouts along with links and web addresses for the Cathedral Foundation and Saint Mark's Cathedral as well as information about Cathedral Day, May 3, 2025. It was noted that the Planned Giving and Free Will videos were not included this year and will be added to the November Foundation Board Meeting agenda for discussion.

Prayer Vigil on Eve of Election November 4

Dean Thomason informed the Vestry that we have been invited to host the Interreligious Prayer Vigil on Monday, November 4 from 7-8 p.m. in the Cathedral nave and via livestream. This will be an intentional, prayerful, nonpartisan, nonpolitical evening offered by Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, St. James Catholic Cathedral, Temple De Hirsch Sinai, First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Seattle, and Seattle University's Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Engagement.

Pay-off Banner Bank Loan

Dean Thomason reported that there is about \$108,000 left to pay on our Banner Bank loan. The Finance Committee has recommended that this loan be paid before the end of this year and prior to the start of the Capital Campaign—allowing the cathedral to begin the campaign debt-free.

A motion was made to authorize the payment of the remainder of the \$108,000 loan with Banner Bank, and was passed unanimously by the Vestry.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Senior Warden

- Looking forward to Ingathering Sunday, a celebration of the stewardship appeal, that began with the Gratitude Dinner.
- Enjoys the vestry meetings where everyone is well intentioned toward improvements and that the parish sees this as witnessed by the interviews done by the Nominating Committee.
- Felt on Sunday, October 20, the feeling that the cathedral is settling into a new and very positive and stable configuration with the arrival of The Rev. Canon Emily Griffin and The Rev. Canon

Rich Weyls, and the appointment of Marc Aubertin as Cathedral Subdean. This was especially noted as Dean Thomason was away. Complimented the staff, the clergy, and Dean Thomason's leadership. And the "glue that holds everything together – Erik Donner."

- Tasked the vestry to begin thinking about the Mutual Ministry Review: the successes of this past year, the challenges we still face, and what should be commended to the next Vestry.

Dean

- Gratitude and comfort to have the priests—70 years priest experience—and Marc Aubertin and the staff that allows him to turn his attention to other things, including time to be away.
- Senior Wardens breakfast early October photo of past senior wardens.
- The Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church met, and Alexandra Thompson attended with two others and shared the photo in the Dropbox.
- Baptism and Necrology Report for the Diocesan Convention for your perusal to hold in your heart and prayers. Reflects the dynamism connection with those coming into and departing our community.
- A personal thank you for the time away to visit their family and especially their grandchild and foster child living with the family.
- Spent a few days in Eastern Washington to experience the canyons and the orchards being tended to by the farmworkers – beautiful setting and good rest.
- Camp Huston dinner with the youth group on retreat and the celebration of Eucharist on Saturday evening.
- Men's Retreat at Camp Huston, November 15-17 with reflection on The Art of Forgiveness – what it means to forgive and be forgiven.
- Baptism on Sunday, November 3 with six baptisms. Three at the 9 a.m. service and three at the 11 a.m. service.
- Sunday, November 24 is the Alternative Gift Market.
- Thanksgiving meal served again after the Thanksgiving Day service. Turkeys and a vegetarian alternative will be provided with potluck dishes provided by those as able. All are invited to this intergenerational experience.
- O Antiphons happens on December 1 to begin the Aven season. Jason Anderson, Compline Choir Director, Michael Kleinschmidt, Canon for Cathedral Music and Dean Thomason will facilitate the Cathedral Commons forum on November 20 about the origins of O Antiphons and its tradition at Saint Mark's.
- Glad to have Emily Griffin here. It is a delight!
 - Files of Note—
 - [1997 West Wall Construction Video](#)
 - Prayer Vigil on Eve of Election
 - Senior warden breakfast photo

MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

Phil Haas reported the repayment of the Banner Bank loan, and the budget were already covered; the same audit firm (CLA) used for the last three years has been selected for the full audit. Looking at this same firm for the Cathedral Foundation's audit.

Facilities

Julia Logan reported her worries with the electrical system. All invited to worry with her.

Dean Thomason added that he visited the workers on the pedestrian pathway from corner of exit drive across the south part of the lawn. Upon learning that this was built with memorial money and to be named

the “All Saints Path” in loving memory of those who had gone before, the worker immediately understood this was sacred work and appreciated the opportunity to work on it.

Creation Care

Gail reported the minutes from the last meeting are in Dropbox; recommended the three or four workshops that will be presented at the Diocesan Convention; a Deep Time Walk led by Richard Hartung on September 22 was a powerful expression of participation with what is nearby; and the possibility of The Rev. Rich Weyls presenting an ecotheology seminar.

Doug Thorpe reported that he and others will be leading a Creation Care poetry/solstice forum during Advent.

Intergenerational Council

Canon Valerie Reinke reported that a “Godly Play in A Day” Diocesan wide event was held in collaboration with the Saint Mark’s, the Diocese of Olympia, and the Godly Play Foundation (Canon Vicar Emily Griffin is the president of the Board). The foundation is moving to be more multicultural and intergenerational. A model Godly Play classroom now resides in the Saint Nicholas Building. There will be a 20s/30s liturgy on All Hallows Eve, October 30. “Cozy Compline” on November 15 is a compline for families. More diversity in the church discussions have begun with Alexandra Thompson. 36 workshops are available and recommended at the Diocesan Convention – link is in the Dropbox.

Restorative Justice Council

Scott reported the minutes from the September meeting are in Dropbox. Three upcoming events: 1) Saturday, November 9 – Walking the Emmaus Road: A Journey from Lament to Hope; 2) Wednesday Cathedral Commons forum, December 4 – Saint Mark’s Housing and Hunger Summit; and 3) Book study (*Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* or *Poverty, by America*) with Wayne Duncan, Christopher Breunig, Peter Synder, and Doug Thorpe who have volunteered to lead discussion groups in January.

Doug Thorpe added that a Duwamish Eco Tour will take place at the Longhouse on November 13 from 11 to 12 p.m. He has also been invited by the 20s/30s group to talk about the situation in Gaza and the West Bank on Sunday, November 17.

Communications

Alexandra Thompson has a summarization of the Communications Toolkit which can be found in Dropbox; hosted Office Hours for ministries to learn about the communication tools in the toolkit the week of October 21 and another session will be held the week of October 28.

CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER

Checkouts were given. Dean Thomason acknowledged parishioner Hannah Hochkeppel for her work while Cathedral Sacristan & Head Verger Michael Seewer has been on sabbatical. The closing prayer was given by Justin Mills. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson
Clerk

Erik Donner
Cathedral Administrator

10/27 Stewardship Ingathering
11/3 All Saints' Sunday w/Baptisms
11/24 Alternative Gifts Market
11/28 Thanksgiving Day Eucharist and Potluck Lunch
12/1 O Antiphons