



Vestry Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 18, 2024
6:00 p.m.
St John's Cathedral

Call to Order: 6 pm

Members Present: John Bass, Donna Walker Bell, Chris Collinsworth, Martha Cox, Paige Hakimian, Scott Hill, Lewis Hunt, Lisa McKenna, Will Ketchum, Patrick Kimball, Lloyd Lewis

Members Absent: Glenn Guiler, Meg Sacks

Others Present: Steve Busey, Chancellor; Charles Winney, Treasurer, Mike Bianchi, GuideServe

Clergy and Staff Present: Dean Kate Moorehead Carroll, Rev. Mark Anderson, Megan Cochran

Quorum: Yes

Opening Devotion: Will Ketchum gave a devotion about cultivating acceptance, grace and truth to foster community while embracing the discomfort of the middle.

Moment of Gratitude: Donna Walker Bell is grateful for Wendy Anderson bringing and supporting Free Wheelchair Mission. Scott Hill is grateful for Pam Searcy and Micha Gibbons hospitality work. Lewis Hunt is grateful for Lynn Doiron organizing Hunger Fight.

Approval of Minutes: Upon Review of the March 21, 2024 minutes, Patrick Kimball motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Lloyd Lewis seconded. All members present voted to approve the minutes.

Financial Report: Mike Bianchi reviewed the Financial Report. Pledge revenue is 30% ahead of budget. Transfers are behind because planned transfers have not been made as they are waiting to change the schedule and there is enough money in the checking account that the money may be better left in an account that accrues interest. Personnel expenses are under budget as we are still trying to hire a hospitality director. Mission and Outreach will be moved to designated funds. Dean Kate asked the members if they are agreeable with the current financial packet- would they prefer more or less detail? Members agreed the current format is good and a forecasting column will be helpful. GuideServe will be sending departmental budgets vs actuals now that the Finance Committee has clarified some questions. The Dot West trustees have given the balance of the music suite renovation cost. Plummer Foundation money should arrive in May.

Tithing Aging True Settlement: Dean Kate began by stating that the 10% or \$333,000 provides an opportunity to lead the congregation in the counter cultural act of tithing. She believes it will have the most impact given as one gift rather than many smaller gifts. Mike Bianchi agreed that parishes have the most success when giving a large amount locally rather than dividing gifts. Members discussed how to discern how to tithe the money: could seed money be given to begin a new non-profit or might we bless one that outreach is currently working with? The Cathedral has a history of seeding successful non-profits. Concerns were raised about parishioners questioning us having so much money we can just give it away and might pledges drop as a result. Dean Kate reiterated that tithing is not a logical approach, but an act of faith and the vestry can model the counter cultural spiritual practice of giving. The process and message chosen are very important. Members will pray and come back to the topic.

Electing a Vestry Secretary: The vestry is required to have a secretary among its members for the purpose of both state and national reporting. Martha Cox nominated Lloyd Lewis. No other nominations were suggested, and

Martha Cox motioned to approve Lewis as Vestry secretary with Donna Walker Bell seconding. All members present voted unanimously in favor of Lloyd Lewis.

Diocesan Relationship: Diocesan Liaison Will Ketchum explained the three steps he is taking to build a relationship with the diocese: 1. Listening, Discovery and Understanding, 2. Establishing mutual guiding principals that are not overly formal and 3. Eventually welcoming a new bishop as a shared expression of our hope. Steve Busey will find and share with Will and Kate a Cathedral Covenant that was created when St John's Parish became St John's Cathedral.

Council Reports

- **Formation:** Lloyd Lewis reported that Laura Jane Pittman will begin editing the Cathedral Quarterly. Children in Sunday formation are working towards earning money to give to donate a wheelchair and so far have raised two wheels and a seat.
- **Outreach:** Paige Hakimian reported that 10,416 meals were made during Hunger Fight. Chris Collinsworth reported that the council is busy with a blood drive, Hunger Fight and Free Wheelchair Mission. There is a pilgrimage coming up and a Family Promise Host week.
- **Parish Engagement:** Martha Cox reported the Spring Festival on April 20 will be the first ever and they do not know what to expect. Members are encouraged to support the festival. There will be a Jazz Cruise in May and the July 4th celebration will be bigger and better.
- **Pastoral Care:** Lewis Hunt is working on tracking the ministries and how many people are served. There is an upward trend in eucharistic visitation. Chaplains have been busy and stay connected via chat. They continue to tweak the process.
- **Properties:** Patrick Kimball reported there has been a meeting about general security and fire safety. There will eventually be a fire drill on a Sunday at the end of a service with a picnic at the meeting place. They are looking at installing a ramp into the Bishop's Garden to make it accessible to those in walkers and wheelchairs. The HVAC system is being modernized. Music suite renovations are expected to begin May 1.
- **Stewardship and Development:** There was no meeting in April.
- **Worship, Music and Arts:** Donna Walker Bell reported the organ concert was a big success. The next exhibit will be sculptures by Tom Buttner and the opening will be May 19. We have four new vergers. Arts of the Spirit will be on May 18. We are very vibrant!

Senior Warden's Report: Martha Cox invited the vestry to enter into discernment about how the parish elects vestry members. There are three ways to elect a vestry: 1. Lottery process for qualified members who have been nominated by a committee of outgoing members; 2. Our current system is to hold elections in which parishioners vote. It is very difficult to get people to run and feelings can be hurt when not elected; and 3. A nominating committee of outgoing members comes up with a slate of qualified individuals who are then approved by the vestry. This allows more specific skill sets to be acquired as needed for a well-functioning vestry. Other cathedrals and large churches use slate elections. We will have listening sessions with the congregation so the process is communicated well. Changing the process will require amending the by-laws and will be a lengthy process. Martha Cox and Kathleen Dunkle will begin facilitating a Sacred Ground Circle and she invited members to join.

SubDean's Report: The Finance Committee approved a property insurance policy. There will be a Pentecost Family Service at 9 am. We are seeking professional guidance on how to structure staff and responsibilities and are looing to hire a youth minister. The bookkeeper will shift to helping in the bookstore now that Guideserve has been onboarded.

Dean's Report: A deacon has recently moved to Jacksonville from south Florida and has begun coming to the cathedral. She founded a children's home in Haiti and will begin serving here. Retired clergy often attend Mother Churches so there are often clergy with collars around who do not work for the church but continue ministering in personal ways. The upcoming series in the Dean's Forum will be on wellness and will culminate in a survey to the congregation.

Closing Prayer: At 7:29 pm, with no other business to discuss, Dean Kate led the vestry in closing prayer.