

Grace Episcopal Cathedral
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting - October 18, 2022

Present: Rick Backlund, Linda Ditch, John Finch, Vanessa Hill, Alan Johnson, Brenda Kebert, Cynthia Sheppard Langston, Lance Royer, Dean Torey Lightcap, Marilyn Trubey, Susan Weber, Dennis Weikel, all present via Zoom.

The meeting opened with prayer.

August Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to accept the August 2022 vestry minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: For the month of September, Operating Income was \$34,702.43 and Operating Expense was \$66,448.62 resulting in a negative balance of \$31,746.19.

Operating Income for the year to date is \$650,215.34 and Operating Expense for the year to date is \$622,491.16, resulting in a positive balance of \$27,724.18.

The corrected cash in the checking account, per books, on September 30, 2022, was \$174,160.09.

The Cathedral is on track with its annual budget percentages. A question was asked about the interest rate for the Providence Fund, which was reported to be an annual rate of 0.60%.

Ministry Reports:

- **Adult Education:** Rick Backlund reported the new education schedule includes a new plan for two-week courses. Presenters include Steve Roth, Scott Shipman, Linda Ditch, and Dean Lightcap. In December, Sarah Shipman will present on Migrations Ministry.
No class on January 1, 2023, then three weeks for "Healthy in Mind, Body, and Spirit" classes, with Linda Ditch, Dean Lightcap, and Rick Backlund presenting. No class on January 29, 2023, due to Annual Meeting. Then classes include History of the Church, Community Blessings – Shaker Ideas, and other topics, in 2-3 week series.
- **Stewardship:** Marilyn Trubey reported Pledge cards were mailed and need to be returned as soon as possible. The Stewardship Dinner is set for November 5, 2022, Susan Weber will be taking care of decorations for the dinner. Susan reported her stewardship letter was emailed to the Dean and she will read it during Sunday service. Rick Backlund and Linda Ditch will be doing the same.
- **Hospitality:** Susan Weber reported plans for Archdeacon Anne and Pat Flynn's going away reception are underway, with help from Nicole. A Deacon's stole is being purchased for Anne, and at her request, donations will be made for the Blessing Bags and Sharing Table. Diane Harrington is providing a photo collage to be given as a gift.
- **Liturgical:** The Dean reported there will be Saturday meeting, at 9:30am, to start learning how to bring a dance ministry into services, with Susan Weber. The Saturday meetings are open to all.
Linda Ditch reported work on the Live Stream connection to add a 30-second introductory video with the Dean in the Sanctuary, plans for a YouTube video, "Introduction to Grace Cathedral," and considering a PDF package for online services, possibly including hymns.

Possible liturgical outreach options were reviewed including the LGBTQ, Latino, and Downtown Business communities; Farmers' Market; Topeka Pride; and Juneteenth and need to consider other community events. Lance asked for upcoming event information for a General Calendar of Events.

Vanessa Hill asked about the possibility of a Cathedral float for the seasonal parades in Topeka. Given the current extra workload for the staff, the Dean asked for the idea to be discussed at a later time.

- Outreach: Dennis Weikel reported they met with the Dean last week and gave a year-end report. The Blessing table is doing well and JUMP has started up again. Marilyn Trubey reported blankets, socks, and hats are needed for the Blessing table but due to price increases not everything needed has been purchased. The Blessing Box has been installed and is being readied with blessings and products. Donations are welcome.
- Children/Youth Education: The Dean gave a short report including that one student has requested and been approved to participate in Adult Confirmation Class.
- Building and Grounds: Due to technical difficulties, John Finch will send his report.
- Endowment: Alan Johnson noted Endowment will provide an annual report.

Senior Warden's Report: Rick Backlund noted clergy support is needed due to Archdeacon Anne and Father John leaving and suggested an arrangement like the Cathedral had with Mother Ashley could be helpful. The Dean is checking with the Diocese about that possibility. Rick noted more specific assignments and regular contact with the Vestry might be helpful for future Deacons.

Strategic planning for next year includes post-Covid evangelism, the Cathedral's role as the Bishop's Church, and the role of Bishop Kemper School. Archdeacon Anne was a dedicated and active leader for JUMP and Melissa Weikel has agreed to take on more leadership responsibilities.

Dean's Report:

- The Dean reported Ivan Greuter agrees his plans with the Cathedral can be made a part of these minutes.
- The graveside service for Sonja Becker will be at Fort Riley.
- Concerns about the current Strategic Development vendor not being responsive may require a vendor change.
- Deacon Don Chubb returned from Sabbatical with a history of the Episcopal Church in Topeka, which also tracks the history of Topeka.
- The Dean has stepped away from the Online Compline Ministry and the Diocesan Task Force on Liturgy, Music & the Arts due to time and energy limitations.
- With the lifting of Covid restrictions, too many requests are being made to use the Cathedral facilities. Requests to use All Saints' Hall are on hold until after the new year. In the meantime, the Dean is updating procedures, rules, and fees for facilities use.
- Reminder to be careful to not overload Staff right now because they are helping with extra work due to clergy losses.

The vestry meeting ended with prayer and then adjourned. The next vestry meeting will be Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 5:30 pm, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Langston, serving as Meeting Recorder