

Grace Episcopal Cathedral

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – February 24, 2025

Present: Rick Backlund, LeRoy Dagg, Vanessa Evans, Eva Jenkins, Norman Nellis, Arceile Ridgeway, Evelyn Wilson, Steve Wolgast, David Woods, Dean Torey Lightcap, Lance Royer (Treasurer), Dan Brogren (The Trust Company of Kansas), Terri Hecox (The Trust Company of Kansas).

The meeting was called to order with prayer.

Introduction of visitors from The Trust Company of Kansas:

Dan Brogren and Terri Hecox, with The Trust Company of Kansas, joined the call to discuss opportunities to enhance our savings by considering investment opportunities. They have many years of experience helping churches manage their finances and meet each church's specific values and level of risk aversion. Investment options include stocks and bonds, and a diversified portfolio could be built.

Vestry members had questions regarding interest rates, if there were any other churches nearby they were working with, and whether or not the organization was fiduciary or bonded. Dan confirmed they are an employee-owned state bank, don't have the power to make deposits, they do receive audits, and will provide the Errors and Omissions (i.e. bonding) documentation soon. Once documentation has been received, the Vestry will continue conversation on the topic.

Lance shared insight that we have a significant amount of money sitting in different places only accruing about 1% interest, and that we may be missing opportunities to have our money working for us. Lance will work with Dan and Terri on a proposal for what this might look like. These may or may not impact the other endowments that we have. Norm moved, David second. Unanimous yes.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to have Lance pursue more information so that the Vestry can make an informed decision.

January Minutes: *A motion was made and seconded to accept the January 2025 vestry minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried.*

Treasurer's report: For the month of January, operating income was \$153,720.89, and operating expense was \$103,362.09 resulting in a positive balance of \$50,358.80. Operating income for the year 2024 is \$944,306.00, and operating expense for 2024 is \$1,070,752.00 resulting in a negative balance of \$126,446.00.

The Dean's discretionary account had an income of \$0 and expenditures of \$672.72, leaving a balance of \$2,164.87. The Canon's discretionary account had an income of \$0 and expenditures of \$245.50, leaving a balance of \$2,029.88. The Curate's discretionary account had an income of \$0 and expenditures of \$0, leaving a balance of \$2,787.05.

Cash in the checking account on January 31, 2025, was \$34,416.25.

Elections for Junior and Senior Wardens: Torey opened the floor to nominations for Senior Warden. Norm made a motion to nominate David Woods for Senior Warden, Evelyn seconded. Senior Warden is typically the person who would have close contact between priest and congregation. They are often the person to approach with questions parishioners may not feel comfortable asking the priest directly. It is important for the Senior Warden to be present in both services and at as many events as possible. They should also be tuned into the Diocese updates and key areas where they are advancing.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to confirm David as Senior Warden.

The Junior Warden works alongside the Senior Warden, and builds up experience with the intention of being voted in as Senior Warden the following year.

The Dean, Canon, Treasurer, and both wardens form the Executive Committee and meet monthly.

A motion was made, seconded to nominate Evelyn Wilson. Evelyn declined to accept due to personal reasons. The Vestry agreed to hold Junior Warden nominations until further discussion at the Vestry Retreat on March 8 (8:30-1 in the Bubb Room).

Canon's report – N/A as Jody is currently in Germany helping her sister

Dean's report

- Working on the Parochial Report, which every parish is required to complete, including a range of questions which change each year. The filing deadline is March 1. Torey will send a PDF via email for the Vestry to review. Once a majority has reviewed it, then it can be marked as complete.
- Update to the President's executive order concerning ICE going into houses of worship. The concept of Sanctuary is no longer being observed under this order. Our Bishop, the Presiding Bishop, and others have spent a lot of time trying to help pull together information and tools for us to utilize if necessary. The Cathedral complex would be considered private property, except when holding public services. Some areas, such as offices, can still be marked as private during those services. You don't have to allow someone into your space if they have an organizational warrant, however a judicial warrant must be allowed. A guide for staff and lay volunteers is being put together to make clear the procedures. It is important that we understand our rights. The Reverend Sarah Shipman, Curate, works for Episcopal Migration Ministries. She is also an attorney, and may be a great asset for us in helping us understand the situation.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Robyn Room.

— Respectfully submitted by Cassie Carlson, *Vestry Recorder*