

Grace Episcopal Cathedral

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – March 18, 2025

Present: David Woods, Rick Backlund, Norman Nellis, Vanessa Evans, Dean Torey Lightcap, Canon Jody Carroll, Lance Royer (Treasurer), attended via Zoom: LeRoy Dagg, Eva Jenkins

The meeting was called to order with prayer.

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

Treasurer's report: For the month of February, operating income was \$120,142.91, and operating expense was \$83,486.17 resulting in a positive balance of \$36,656.74. Operating income for the year 2025 is \$273,863.80, and operating expense for 2025 is \$186,848.26 resulting in a positive balance of \$87,015.54.

The Dean's discretionary account had an income of \$395.00 and expenditures of \$920.26, leaving a balance of \$1,639.61. The Canon's discretionary account had an income of \$380.00 and expenditures of \$0, leaving a balance of \$2,409.88. The Curate's discretionary account had an income of \$100.00 and expenditures of \$0, leaving a balance of \$2,887.05.

Cash in the checking account on February 28, 2025, was \$75,161.45.

Financial Updates:

Trust Company of Kansas:

Treasurer Lance Royer reported we have approximately \$189,000 in CoreFirst and Capital Federal accounts. These earn about 1% interest. Another Kansas church is currently earning roughly 2.4-8.3% by working with the Kansas Trust Company to manage its investments. (Endowment funds held with State Street Global and the Topeka Community Foundation are also assets under management but not impacted by the possibility of working with KTC.)

Following discussion, it was proposed that we should seek out at least one more proposal from a different company to make sure we're doing our due diligence. Lance will look into another option to help us compare.

Upcoming Building Expenses:

There is a leak in the cathedral which requires work on tower tuck-pointing, and our HVAC condensate pumps are going out, with anticipated expense of approximately \$18,000. Some research is being done to find out whether these are strictly considered routine maintenance, or if they might be considered upgrades (per diocesan canon). If the latter, it could potentially impact our apportionment in a positive way, if financed, after appropriate approvals are secured from the Northwest Convocation and diocesan Council of Trustees. If we can get data on whether or not the new condensate pumps are more energy efficient, then we may have a good case to present. Permission was granted to the Treasurer to pursue this possibility.

Vacancy in Vestry Membership: Evelyn Wilson has stepped down from her position in the Vestry due to a recent diagnosis. Discussion opened amongst current Vestry members to share thoughts around potential nominees to serve the remainder of Evelyn's term (which would end in late January 2027). Nominees need to be members in good standing of Grace Cathedral, faithful in attendance and giving, and at least 16 years of age. A few names were mentioned. Vestry members will connect with them to see if there is any interest before we move to the next phase.

Policy on the presence of immigration enforcement at Grace Cathedral: Dean Torey drafted the policy which has also been reviewed and approved by the Chancellor, Cindy Sheppard. Following discussion, *A motion was made and seconded to approve (five yes, zero no, one abstaining) the policy as presented.*

Canon's report

- Jody reached out to roughly 15 people who have expressed interest in membership over the past few months. There is a great range of ages represented, and some have expressed interest in baptism for both adults and children. A series of membership classes will be held on the five Sundays leading up to the Bishop's visit on June 1.
- Reminder about the clergy gathering coming up in a couple of weeks.
- Update on the Tuesday Bible Study group. The group is well-established now, and Jody is stepping away to let them self-lead.

Dean's report

- Will be attending the North American Cathedral Dean's Conference May 8-11 at Trinity Cathedral in Omaha. Torey is a part of the conference planning committee. The Presiding Bishop will be with Trinity Cathedral that Sunday, and Torey will remain in Omaha for those services.
- Dean Torey plans to meet with the youth this coming Sunday to discuss the confirmation process and to see if any of the youth are interested in being confirmed this year.
- Work and planning are ongoing around the Lenten season, especially Wednesdays in Lent and Holy Week).
- Staff Update: Cassandra has been a great addition to the team, has been learning her new role quickly, and is working well with the other staff.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Robyn Room.

— Respectfully submitted by Cassie Carlson, *Vestry Recorder*