

## **Grace Episcopal Cathedral Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – April 29, 2025**

**Present:** David Woods, Rick Backlund, LeRoy Dagg, Eva Jenkins, Arceile Ridgeway, Norman Nellis, Vanessa Evans, Steve Wolgast, Dean Torey Lightcap, Lance Royer (Treasurer)

The meeting was called to order with prayer.

**Opening Study:** Senior Warden David Woods led a study on the Christian Hope.

**February Minutes:** *A motion was made and seconded to accept the March 2025 vestry minutes as presented. Motion was approved (seven yes, 1 abstaining.)*

**Treasurer's report:** For the month of March, operating income was \$59,562.49, and operating expense was \$82,306.41 resulting in a negative balance of \$22,743.92. Operating income for the year 2025 is \$333,426.29, and operating expense for 2025 is \$269,154.67 resulting in a positive balance of \$64,271.62.

The Dean's discretionary account had an income of \$79.00 and expenditures of \$1,311.92, leaving a balance of \$406.69. The Canon's discretionary account had an income of \$79.00 and expenditures of \$205, leaving a balance of \$2,283.88. The Curate's discretionary account had an income of \$250.00 and expenditures of \$0, leaving a balance of \$3,137.05.

Cash in the checking account on March 31, 2025, was \$48,910.34.

### **Financial Updates:**

#### **Trust Company of Kansas:**

The Trust Company of Kansas provided a presentation to Treasurer Lance Royer, and he shared that with the Vestry for review. Junior Warden Rick Backlund will also connect with his financial planner before the May meeting to discuss possible alternative options to present as well.

#### **Current Building Maintenance & Expenses:**

The LED conversion project in the cathedral started in early April. Work paused for a couple weeks to not interfere with Holy Week and Easter services. The project is taking longer than planned, however Lesser Electric has been working hard to ensure all updates are completed thoroughly with the correct components for our older facility.

**Vacancy in Vestry Membership:** There is one vacant seat on the Vestry which would serve the remainder of Evelyn Wilson's term ending in January 2027. Vestry nominees need to be members in good standing of Grace Cathedral, faithful in attendance and giving, and at least 16 years of age. Since the March Vestry meeting, Senior Warden David Woods and Junior Warden Rick Backlund have made contact with multiple cathedral members who were identified in the March meeting as potential nominees, and unfortunately, none were able to accept a nomination at this time. Dean Torey shared that three people in the current membership class may be great candidates for nomination once they are confirmed as members in June. Decision was made to update the congregation about the current vacancy, and open the floor for anyone who may feel called to serve in this way. Dean Torey will prepare that communication to the parish.

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Grace Cathedral Fire of 1975**

Arceile inquired about plans for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fire this November. That will be added as a discussion item for the next Vestry meeting.

**Canon's report** – N/A as Jody is currently in Arizona

### **Dean's report**

- Twelve services were held at Grace Cathedral across the eight days of Holy Week from Palm Sunday through Easter Day. We thank the countless number of volunteers from the parish who gave of their time and energy to serve and helped make Holy Week a wonderful time of mindfulness and celebration. In response to Dean Torey, the Vestry members said they appreciated the thank you note in the bulletin the previous, and felt it was very thoughtful.
- Membership class kicked off this past Sunday with thirteen attendees; 2 for reception, 5 for confirmation, 2 for reaffirmation, 1 TBD, and 3 adults for baptism & confirmation. Books for participants have been provided by a generous donor.
- Outline and discussion on the process of how the diocese will search for a new bishop. Outline is attached. Dean Torey will aim to share this as the Adult Forum topic on or around June 8.

**The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.** in the Robyn Room.

— Respectfully submitted by Cassie Carlson, *Vestry Recorder*

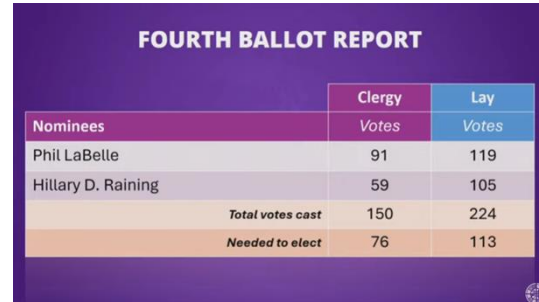
# How do we get a new bishop? (with fun new terminology in blue)

April 2025

1. Like everyone, bishops must either retire or resign. In either case, it has to have happened by the time they turn 72.
  - a. The bishop calls for an election, most often for a **coadjutor** (successor provided for orderly transition during a period of overlap). Because there won't be any overlap this time, the existing bishop (the Tenth Bishop) has simply called for an election of the next bishop (the Eleventh Bishop) of the diocese.
  - b. How long does it take start to finish?
    - i. In the past, timeframes of 1.5-2 years.
  - c. What is the currently-proposed schedule?
    - i. Bishop Bascom's last day: January 31, 2026. (Final Sunday: January 25.)
    - ii. Electing Convention: Spring 2026.
    - iii. Consecration of 11th Bishop of Kansas: 167th Convention, October 2026.
2. Who has authority when there is no bishop? (**ecclesiastical authority**)
  - a. The **Diocesan Convention** is the ruling authority but only meets 1x/yr *so really* –
  - b. Diocesan **Standing Committee** (in Diocese of Kansas, the Council of Trustees can act in this capacity) does the bulk of the work, in concert with the diocesan staff.
    - i. The Council of Trustees will soon recruit for openings on the diocesan Search and Transition committees (see below).
  - c. Other arrangements may include agreements with existing bishops: Assistant, Provisional, or a visiting bishop from a neighboring diocese for one-off work (the occasional "**ecclesiastical jazz hands**").
3. **Search committee** (composed of members of the diocese) and a denominational facilitator
  - a. Appointed by Standing Committee. Charged with handing over a **slate** of a certain number of candidates by a certain date.
  - b. Formalize the picture of who we are looking for.
    - i. Conduct research, do surveys.
    - ii. Compose and distribute search document/web site.
  - c. Receive letters of interest from candidates, conduct interviews and vet candidates, facilitate candidate retreat, informally finalize slate, and hand it over to the Standing Committee/Council of Trustees.
  - d. With the Standing Committee, facilitate the **petition process**.
4. **Transition committee** (composed of members of the diocese)
  - a. Appointed by Standing Committee. Charged with getting candidates in front of the diocese and facilitating the election.
  - b. Run tours of diocesan congregations, affiliated programs, key sites, and people.
  - c. In 2018 in the Diocese of Kansas: the biggest feature of these "**walkabouts**" was evening conversations with members of each of the four convocations.
  - d. Work with diocesan staff and Standing Committee to hold election.
  - e. Post-election: facilitate the transition from the elected person's existing home to Kansas (the rules say you have to live within the geographic boundaries of the diocese).

5. Elected by the Diocesan Convention.

- a. At the usual October date or at a specially-called **electing convention**.
- b. Votes are by orders: lay and ordained (see example from the Diocese of Olympia).



Nominees	Clergy	Lay
	Votes	Votes
Phil LaBelle	91	119
Hillary D. Raining	59	105
Total votes cast	150	224
Needed to elect	76	113

- i. Often takes place within the context of a worship service.
- ii. No one may be present in the building who is not either a voter or directly involved in facilitating the vote.
- iii. Typically, electronic voting devices are used as they minimize errors and speed up the process.
- iv. Each clerical and lay member of Diocesan Convention present is entitled to one vote.
- v. "If three-fourths of all the self-governing parishes and one-third of all other parishes or congregations entitled to representation be present, a majority of votes cast in each order shall determine a choice."
- vi. Candidates can drop out between ballots if it looks like they're not going to win – facilitates faster voting.

- c. Last election was held at Grace Cathedral in October 2018. On a ballot of three candidates, Bishop Bascom was elected on the second ballot.

6. The choice is affirmed by the wider church through the **consent process**.

- a. Every diocese in The Episcopal Church has 120 days to respond to every one of these elections by a vote of Standing Committee. (Typically happens faster than that.)
- b. Some dioceses may withhold for good cause, in which case the elective process can basically start over ("proceed to a new election").
- c. The Office of the Presiding Bishop collects the results and declares when a bishop has been duly confirmed by the rest of the church.

7. The new bishop is consecrated at a service of **ordination/consecration**.

- a. Most typically at the cathedral parish of the diocese.
  - i. Often contains a service of the **seating of the new bishop**, though that can be deferred until later depending on the circumstances.
- b. Must have at least three bishops present.
- c. When available, the Presiding Bishop presides.
- d. These services typically pack out the facility.