

Grace Episcopal Cathedral

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – May 20, 2025

Present: David Woods, Rick Backlund, LeRoy Dagg, Eva Jenkins, Vanessa Evans, Steve Wolgast, Dean Torey Lightcap, Canon Jody Carroll, Lance Royer (Treasurer)

The meeting was called to order with prayer.

Opening Study: The opening study by Steve Wolgast will serve as a closing study during this session.

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

Treasurer's report: For the month of April, operating income was \$56,738.88, and operating expense was \$102,096.41 resulting in a negative balance of \$45,357.53. Operating income for the year 2025 is \$390,165.17, and operating expense for 2025 is \$371,251.08 resulting in a positive balance of \$18,914.09.

The Dean's discretionary account had an income of \$475.00 and expenditures of \$435.43, leaving a balance of \$446.26. The Canon's discretionary account had an income of \$90.00 and expenditures of \$187.66, leaving a balance of \$2,186.22. The Curate's discretionary account had an income of \$0 and expenditures of \$0, leaving a balance of \$3,137.05.

Cash in the checking account on April 30, 2025, was \$4,174.77.

Financial Updates:

Edward Jones / Trust Company of Kansas (TCK):

Junior Warden Rick Backlund and Treasurer Lance Royer provided an update on their investment research through the Trust Company of Kansas (TCK) and Edward Jones. Edward Jones had a money market account earning 4.3% interest (variable) as of last week. TCK has a similar account with slightly higher interest rates. TCK charges a 1.4% fee, though they give 20% of that fee back as a donation. Edward Jones does not charge a fee. Neither presents issues for withdrawals from the accounts. Both offer online portals for ease of use. The group felt that supporting local business would be a plus, and was a tipping point on choosing TCK over Edward Jones. *A motion was made and seconded to move forward with The Trust Company of Kansas. The motion was unanimously approved.*

Accountant Update:

We recently changed our accountant due to some delays and struggles with our previous accountant, Ken Elder Accounting. We've tried to resolve the issues with the previous accountant, but were unable to come to a solution. The new accountants are Cavanaugh and Porter. We have had one payroll cycle with them so far, and it went very smoothly according to Finance Officer Kent Wingerson and Treasurer Lance Royer.

Current Building Maintenance & Expenses:

The LED lighting project is still ongoing.

Vacancy in Vestry Membership: There is one vacant seat on the Vestry which will serve the remainder of Evelyn Wilson's term ending in January 2027. Lawton Nuss has responded to Dean Torey's message in the most recent eChimes and "raised his hand" to the opportunity. *A motion was made and seconded to*

appoint Lawton Nuss to serve the remaining two-year term. The motion was unanimously approved. A second motion was made and seconded to appoint Lawton Nuss as the Vestry representative to the Endowment Trustees in which he already serves. The motion was unanimously approved.

Juneteenth Service – Sunday, June 22

LeRoy Dagg provided an update on the special additions to the Sunday, June 22 services which will honor and celebrate Juneteenth. The service will include specially selected readings, as well as hymnal music from Black contributors. A committee has been working to develop and propose recommendations for collects, Prayers of the People, scriptural lessons, etc. to Grace Cathedral's clergy. The Music Circle will propose music suggestions to Organist Donald Livingston, Choir Director Eduardo Garcia-Novelli, and Assistant Director Zachary Cope. Adult Form, on June 22, will include a presentation on the history of St. Simon's and Juneteenth. There are several former St. Simon's members in Beloved Community.

4th of July Service

In 2024, there were 524 in attendance.

We are still working to line up a guest speaker. Senior Warden David Woods suggests Dr. Julie Ann Mazachek, President of Washburn University, as a speaker for this year's service. He will pursue that ask with her office at Washburn.

50th Anniversary of Grace Cathedral Fire of 1975

The official anniversary of the fire is November 26. We will host an Open House on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the fire. We will invite the community, offer tours, and provide snacks. Doors open at 2pm, and there will be a 4pm service of evening prayer. Sunset is estimated to be at 5:03pm. Composer Tony Silvestri may compose a commissioned work specifically for this event. We also aim to recognize individuals/families instrumental in the rebuilding of the Cathedral.

Canon's report

- Attended a breast cancer retreat last month which she does every year.
- Membership class update - excited about the individuals involved in the class and their engagement with the content and with one another .
- Excited about people's pursuit of expanding their prayers.
 - Stephen's Ministry has requested additional information and resources for prayer especially as it relates to self-care.
 - Parishioner admitted to hospital, and she reached out to Dan Rice of our prayer ministry, and the prayer ministers stepped up to help visit with this parishioner.

Dean's report

- Ron DeWeese Funeral will be held on July 12 at 1:30pm.
- Attended North American Cathedral Dean's Conference in Omaha. Presiding Bishop was in attendance and spoke.
- Rev. Laird MacGregor, a member of the diocesan clergy passed away recently. The Cathedral needs to recognize his passing, so an acknowledgement was added to the prayers for this week. From now on, we plan to mention the passing of diocesan clergy in the Prayers of the People of the week following.
- Honorary Canon program - A few other dioceses have them. If a person has been ordained for 50+ years (in addition to other requirements), they can become an honorary Canon. This is something he is considering implementing here.
- Applied to be on the search committee for the Bishop, and is pending confirmation.

- Will take month of August off – taking a kid to college and working on a writing project.
- Update on Sarah Shipman, Curate – She works for Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) which has been upended by the current administration. They are no longer going to resettle new refugees, and will end their contract with the U.S. Government. Their staff has been reduced from roughly 30 to roughly 10, and may be reduced further. The Presiding Bishop is exploring a shift for the organization to become a global response arm of the Episcopal Church. Sarah is effectively being released from her curacy as she will be very busy with EMM. We are pursuing a new option to give her a title along the lines of Priest Associate, which will help keep her connection to Grace Cathedral.

Closing Study: Steve Wolgast led the study with a Compline prayer of Trust.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Robyn Room.

— Respectfully submitted by Cassie Carlson, *Vestry Recorder*