

Grace Episcopal Cathedral

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – December 16, 2025

Present: David Woods, Rick Backlund, Arceile Ridgeway, Eva Jenkins, Steve Wolgast, Lawton Nuss, Vanessa Evans, Dean Torey Lightcap, Canon Jody Carroll, and Treasurer Lance Royer.

The meeting was called to order with prayer.

November Minutes: Canon Jody Carroll suggested making this change: Update Kent's retirement date from January 1 to December 31. *A motion was made and seconded to approve the corrected November 2025 Vestry minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.*

Treasurer's report: For the month of November, operating income was \$56,295.07, and operating expense was \$84,704.13 resulting in a negative balance of \$28,409.06. Operating income for the year 2025 is \$901,891.92, and operating expense for 2025 is \$972,014.91 resulting in a negative balance of \$70,122.99.

The Dean's discretionary account had an income of \$50.00 and expenditures of \$500.00, leaving a balance of \$3,326.35. The Canon's discretionary account had an income of \$50.00 and expenditures of \$100.00, leaving a balance of \$1,765.47.

Cash in the checking account on November 30, 2025, was \$10,855.51.

Budget and Finance Committee Update

The committee is working hard on the 2026 budget. The 2026 budget is at negative \$94,843 as of now. Pledges submitted for 2026 include 75 increased, 15 decreased, 43 same as last year, 15 new pledges. There will be one more budget and finance committee meeting in January to finalize the budget, and then Finance Committee Chair, Kevin Cassidy, will present the budget to the Vestry.

Nominations Committee

Vestry Candidates – Senior Warden, David Woods, and Vestry member, Arceile Ridgeway, worked together to contact potential nominees. Both Woods' and Ridgeway's three-year terms of service on the Vestry are ending in January, and gratitude was expressed for their service and commitment. These four parishioners have confirmed strong interest in serving and have accepted the nominations: Pam Alexander, Kevin Cassidy, Kathy Couch, and Lance Royer. Names of a few other potential candidates were discussed.

Endowment Trustees – Two people are rolling off the Endowment Trustees. Ed Carter is interested in running, and we need one more person to run. The trustees meet quarterly, and typically via Zoom.

Diocesan Convention/Electing Convention – One additional delegate needed. Convention will be held at Grace Cathedral in 2026. Ruth Ohm will be an elector.

Voting on all positions will be held at the 2026 Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25th.

Canon's report

- 2026 Housing Resolution for the Canon - *A motion was made and seconded to accept the Canon's 2026 Housing Resolution as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.*
- Council of Trustees, Standing Committee, Ecclesial Authority – All groups are taking steps to thoughtfully approach the search for a new bishop.

- Justice Welcome and Inclusion Committee is currently in a holding pattern due to the absence of committee leadership. The expectation is that it will be resolved during the January meeting.
- The Blue Christmas service will be held tomorrow night at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel.
- Adult Forum – Three parishioners, Jackie Sommers, Megan Lawson, and Chris Reid, have agreed to lead Adult Forum in January on the topic of the Beatitudes. Sessions will be January 11, 18, and 25.

Dean's report

- 2026 Housing Resolution for the Dean - *A motion was made and seconded to accept the Dean's 2026 Housing Resolution as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.*
- Bishop Bascom will be with us at Christmas. This will be her last time with us liturgically. Services are at 6pm and 10pm on Christmas Eve. Patrick Funston will be the Bishop's Chaplain at 10pm.
- Bishop Search Committee – December 5th was the deadline for applications, beginning an extended discernment phase. The slate of candidates will be announced in March 2026.
- Thanks to the parish community:
 - To all who helped bring together the 50th anniversary of the fire event on Nov 23rd which included the choirs from St David's and St Paul's. We enjoyed new music including a new hymn with commissioned text, to be used again at Pentecost, and music arranged by Donald Livingston. We received and presented a new painting donated by local artist, Lois VanLiew. It was incredible to see it all come together because so many people said "yes" to lending a hand.
 - To all who helped with Kent Wingerson's retirement celebration last Sunday. It was a good send off, though we aren't fully sending him off.
- Looking ahead in dealing with Kent's semi-retirement. We will continue the knowledge-transfer between Kent and Cassie Carlson, Simply Solutions, and Jeremy Kebert. We've seen a few key retirements in the past few years, and those also aligned by chance with other challenges including COVID. It is now time to aim to be more evangelistic toward the community in the years to come to draw in and grow our church body, increasing our presence in the greater Topeka community and awareness of our church body and its ministries. This is where the Dean's heart is at the moment for this parish. This is about sharing our joy and our light, and not about survival.
 - Note: In response to Dean Torey's thoughts, Vanessa Evans suggested we include something for the kids in the parish hall. Something that makes them feel welcome and that that space is theirs too.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Bubb Room.

— Respectfully submitted by Cassie Carlson, *Vestry Recorder*