

# Grace Episcopal Cathedral

## Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – January 20, 2026

**Present:** David Woods, Rick Backlund, Arceile Ridgeway, Eva Jenkins, Steve Wolgast, Lawton Nuss, Vanessa Evans, Norm Nellis, Dean Torey Lightcap, Canon Jody Carroll, Finance Committee Chair Kevin Cassidy, and Treasurer Lance Royer.

The meeting was called to order with prayer.

**December Minutes:** *A motion was made and seconded to approve the December 2025 Vestry minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.*

**Treasurer's report:** For the month of December, operating income was \$100,835.33, and operating expense was \$105,703.86 resulting in a negative balance of \$4,868.53. Operating income for the year 2025 is \$1,002,737.85, and operating expense for 2025 is \$1,078,859.09 resulting in a negative balance of \$76,121.24.

The Dean's discretionary account had an income of \$532.00 and expenditures of \$1805.00, leaving a balance of \$2,053.35. The Canon's discretionary account had an income of \$115.00 and expenditures of \$405.00, leaving a balance of \$1,475.47.

Cash in the checking account on December 31, 2025, was \$10,520.05.

### **Budget and Finance Committee Update**

Finance Committee Chair, Kevin Cassidy, presented the 2026 budget for approval. Pledges have increased since last year. Endowments will see a significant rise this year due to additional donations, and the stock market performing well. Expenses are rising though as well. Clergy and lay staff received raises this year in varying ranges. There are some savings on the lay side which made room for some raises this year. The Choral Scholar pay has been increased from \$48 to \$50 per appearance to be more competitive with other churches and the Kansas City market. Diocesan Apportionment has been reduced by about \$7,000 compared to 2025 due to some thorough conversations with the Diocese. Our deficit is roughly \$40,000 less than last year which is a great step forward.

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2026 budget as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.*

### **Annual Meeting**

Thanks were expressed to the work of Senior Warden David Woods and Arceile Ridgeway in contacting potential Vestry candidates for 2026 elections. We will have four candidates for Vestry this year. Voting on all positions will be held at the 2026 Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. Elections and budget are the two largest pieces for the meeting. We will have a printed annual report available as well as copies of the 2026 directory. As soon as we have results from the annual meeting, we will schedule a Vestry retreat.

### **Boiler Update**

Facilities Manager, Jeremy Kebert, provided an update on the boiler. The two men who required hospital care in early January have been released, are now home, and are expected to have a full recovery. One man wasn't injured, and a fourth man had slight burns on his hands and is already back to work.

Our annual boiler inspection was completed by Kansas Fire Marshals in 2025, and we have documentation of having passed the inspection. Minor repairs have been handled since then. At the time of the incident, we were up to date on all proper certifications, and all certifications are properly displayed. We have had multiple inspectors visit this month, and we are in compliance. An engineering company from Lenexa was brought in by our insurance company, and we haven't heard back on that. Hugh, owner of HD Service Co., is in regular communication with us and has provided updates on the workers.

## **Outgoing Vestry Members**

Outgoing Vestry members, Senior Warden David Woods and Arceile Ridgeway, offered thanks and kind regards to their time on the Vestry and expressed that it has been an honor to serve the Cathedral alongside others. David shared some chocolates from Hazel Hill. Dean Torey thanked both for being a part of this sacred and meaningful task. He intends to recognize both at the annual meeting.

## **Canon's report**

- Council of Trustees update – it's an exciting time to be a part of the Council, and it takes quite a bit of time and effort as well. The Council will meet in person tomorrow. It is exciting to assist the bishop in her transition out of her role as bishop and into her new role. There is a new Diocese Comptroller as well which adds to the transitions. It is an exciting period of change. January 31 will officially be the bishop's last day. There is a ceremony tomorrow during the Council of Trustees meeting that will anticipate the upcoming transition.
- Working on mapping out Adult Forum for 2026, and utilizing our own resources to try to provide great informational events. We've been very impressed with the current Beatitudes series led by parishioners. Our next series will be on iconography. We are open to ideas for other topics.
- Generating a list of potential new members as we approach the season for new member classes leading up to confirmations in June. We will need to confirm whether or not there are limitations on this since we will be without a bishop.

## **Dean's report**

- Whenever legislative session renews, some pieces of proposed legislation that bear directly on religious professionals or the Cathedral are noteworthy. Dean Torey offers testimony at times as a religious professional via his personal email address. He has done one so far during the current legislative session concerning HB 2034, pertaining to the hiring of chaplains in public schools. He weighed in to the Education Committee to oppose the suggestion due to its being a clear violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.
- Starting the early phase of sabbatical planning. The Dean has sought council from peers and parishioners to help support planning.
- Currently operating as Co-Chair of the Bishop Search Committee. The committee has developed a profile, received packets from interested parties, handled Zoom interviews, and now the next phase will involve discernment on which candidates will move on to the in-person interview phase. The process has been time consuming but is incredibly important.
- Update on the writing work done in August – Church Publishing Incorporated has expressed interest. He has an appointment coming up via Zoom to explore a possible publishing option. Proud of where that is at.

## **Additional Discussion**

- Lawton Nuss inquired about the status of the new coloring table in All Saints Hall. The group agreed that it has been well-received by both kids and parents. Vanessa Evans noted that parents from different families are getting to sit amongst each other now, and have been staying longer as well.
- Vanessa Evans inquired about the Cathedral's history of ministering to Washburn students. Arceile confirmed that Kathy Slawson was involved in a campus ministry in the 1990s. The group met regularly on campus. The Vestry aims to explore opportunities in the coming months. There's a possibility that the Choral Scholar opportunity may be extended to Washburn students in the next academic year. Donald can vouch for qualified students. Karen Schlabach would be a good contact to get involved in her role as the Youth, Young Adult & Campus Missioner for the diocese.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

**The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.** in the Bubb Room.

— Respectfully submitted by Cassie Carlson, *Vestry Recorder*