



**Minutes of Trinity Cathedral Vestry Meeting
March 19, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.**

Present:

Vestry Members: Jeff Spiess, Sr. Warden; Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Jr. Warden; Paul Herrgesell, Treasurer; Mark Biddlestone; Elizabeth Billings; Marie Curry; Martin Hermes; Diane Hexter; Audrey Hudak; Antoinette Ponzio; Cynthia Ries; Marilyn Valencia

Staff: The Very Rev. Bernard Owens, Dean; The Rev. Adrienne Koch, Priest Associate; Cheryl Williams, Director of Development and Community Programming

Clerk of Vestry: Darrell Lausche

Guest: John Chapman, Chair of the Congregational Life Mission Team

Absent: All Members Present

- The Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.
- Marie Curry led the Vestry in the opening devotional.

Formation

- Congregational Life

John Chapman, Chair of Congregational Life, updated the members of Vestry on the work of the Congregational Life mission team. The team is comprised of five members with Marilyn Valencia as the Vestry liaison. Meetings rotate to the various areas in which team members reside. The Care Corner is being revived with a couple requests thus far. The Trinity Friars are going strong with 70 people on the mailing list. Approximately 25 congregants attend each fish fry. Knitting Pearls is currently on hiatus, but members are still knitting baby blankets. The LGBTQ+ Outreach Mission has lost and gained a leader with plans for Pride in the CLE participation. September 21, 2024, will have a congregational cookout scheduled. A Place at the Table (APAT) has a rotating group of volunteers. Two new organizations have joined the rotation of volunteers. APAT will have a picnic on June 23, 2024, for those in need and congregants to come together. There are new ushers and sacristans recruited. A youth acolyte team has been formed. Clarifying questions were asked by Vestry members.

- Dean's Report

Dean Owens shared information about conversations with the Scope Committee, possibilities with Mather Hall, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries, etc. He is working to ascertain needs for the neighborhood. He also met with members of Global Cleveland about housing issues, especially transitional housing. As of a week and a half prior to the Vestry meeting, every staff position is filled. Dean Owens complimented the work of the staff.

Fiduciary Work

- Adoption of Consent Agenda
 - February Meeting Minutes
 - Worship, Art & Music (WAM) Anthem Commission Proposal

Jeff Spiess moved, "to accept the consent agenda." Paul Herrgesell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Clergy Renewal (Lilly) Grant

Jeff Spiess, Senior Warden, shared that the grant proposal has been submitted, as it relates to the proposed clergy renewal for Dean Owens. The submission has been uploaded into the Vestry Dropbox. The submission is for Vestry member review.

- Finance Committee & Treasurer's Report

Paul Herrgesell, Treasurer, discussed the monthly financial statements. Trinity Cathedral pledging is on trend, but a pledged gift from January 2024 has not been received yet. Considering that item, income is on target. Total expenditures are still better than budget. Trinity Commons finances are in good standing. Income is on budget and expenses are currently under budget but will catch up as the new staff continue to onboard. The cashflow forecast was also included in the documents for Vestry. The forecast is in good standing. Once capital projects are completed, the Vestry will be consulted on endowment draws. Clarifying questions were asked.

Paul also updated the Vestry on the Cleveland State University (CSU) lease. CSU has expressed interest in extending the lease for three years. There has also been an agreed upon increase in the lease.

- Investment Policy Approval

Paul Herrgesell provided another copy of the Investment Policy updates for Vestry member review. There was an update barring cryptocurrency investment. The Investment Committee recommended approval. **Paul Herrgesell moved, "to approve the investment policy." Jeff Spiess seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.**

- Property & Sustainability Committee

Mark Biddlestone provided information about capital improvements. The four stained glass windows are behind schedule. The second set of windows are still on schedule for restoration. He recommended contacting the Whitney Company to get clarification on the timeline for the planned restoration work. Additionally, he recommended having the company reassess the needs for the windows that may not be addressed in 2024.

Masonry work and work on Parish House is still on schedule. The roofing on the elevator tower needed to be addressed, due to a leak. The work has been completed. The cathedral crack investigation is still ongoing. The door restoration is still scheduled and quotes are being sought. The lighting upgrade will be spearheaded by Jon Silvas and estimates will be sought. Clarifying questions were asked regarding all the projects presented.

- College of Congregational Ministry (August 11-16, 2024)

Dean Owens explained that he is awaiting the opening of registration for the College of Congregational Ministry (CCM) workshops at Bellwether Farm. The Diocesan Council is working on logistics for accommodating everyone that may be interested. He requested recommendations for possible Trinity Cathedral representatives to attend CCD be forwarded to him. Questions were entertained and answered.

- Stewardship Report

A draft Stewardship Committee job description was presented by Cheryl Williams. She recommended adoption of the job description and moving the committee to a year-round model, instead of just during the stewardship campaign. There is a desire to expand the committee by two or three people. Cynthia Ries provided the updated Stewardship Dashboard and entertained questions.



Strategic Work

- Pre-campaign Update and Timelines

Cheryl Williams, Director of Development and Community Programming, described the work she has done to get a fuller understanding of the hopes and desires of the congregation. She has met with Dean Owens about a relaxed and thoughtful timeline for a campaign. She believes that if one starts well, one ends well. She stressed that it is important that a sense of ownership is cultivated. She shared a plan for receiving feedback about a campaign through the summer. The annual stewardship drive would be scheduled for the fall, followed by a start to a quiet campaign. The goal of the quiet campaign would be to solicit volunteers and build relationships with possible donors. A public campaign would follow.

Cheryl is working on pre-campaign work. She is researching grant funding and other partner organizations. Exploratory conversations with local supporters have begun. Vestry members were invited to ask questions.

- Capital & Capacity 2024-2026

Cheryl Williams led discussion about the work of the three sub-committees. Feedback was elicited throughout the conversation.

- Planned Giving – One meeting has been held, with another planned. The committee is focusing on whether a legacy circle is desirable at Trinity Cathedral and what to call it. The discussion focused on the name “circle” is more inclusive than “society.” Clarifying questions were asked.
- Scope – Dean Owens shared the scope document via the Vestry Dropbox. Co-creation is an anchor idea. Co-creation with God and co-creating with our historic Trinity ancestors and co-creating for the future lends itself to an eye on current programming needs and discovering opportunities to deepen Trinity Cathedral’s engagement with the greater community. The scope document provided details on brainstorming that has taken place to date.
- Gift Acceptance Policy – The committee is working with planned giving vehicles. The committee was charged with reviewing the current gift acceptance policy. There was no diocesan policy to review, but a national policy was available, and the committee decided the national document was more robust than the current Trinity Cathedral policy. The committee will seek advice from Cheryl Williams and Dan Hout-Reilly as they continue to meet and revise Trinity Cathedral’s policy.

- Downtown Area Cathedral Community

Dean Owens opened discussion and brainstorming about co-creation. A point was raised about the perception residents around Trinity Cathedral may hold about the church. Dean Owens refined his vision by explaining thinking about how the work of the cathedral can connect to the neighborhoods that constitute the core of Downtown in which Trinity Cathedral touches. He discussed the importance of aligning Trinity Cathedral’s strength with the varying needs of the various areas of the surrounding neighborhood. Vestry members offered their questions and ideas to the conversation.



Generative Work

- Cathedral Chapter Discussion

Dean Owens reminded the members of Vestry that The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Bishop, mentioned revisiting a Cathedral Chapter when she met with the Vestry at the annual retreat. He discussed the role of a Cathedral Chapter and referenced the diocesan canons. Questions were raised about how the Cathedral Chapter would affect the work of the Vestry and the cathedral congregation at large. Dean Owens believes that the Chapter would help inform us about the use of shared spaces on the Trinity campus. He shared that the Cathedral Chapter is an opportunity for collaboration between the Dean and Bishop to craft the role of the cathedral in diocesan life.

Closing Prayer

Marie Curry led the Vestry in a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting: April 16, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

- Rev. Koch's Housing Allowance

An issue was discovered after the Vestry meeting's conclusion. Rev. Adrienne Koch has requested an adjustment to her housing allowance. The figure requested is lower than what was approved at the December 2023 Vestry Meeting. Trinity Cathedral's payroll identified something that suggested the Vestry approved an amount beyond a limit on what could be offered to her. **Martin Hermes moved to, "approve the resolution as proposed and attached to Dean Owen's email sent to Vestry members on March 22, 2024."** Kim DeNero-Ackroyd seconded the motion. The motion

Respectfully submitted,



Darrell Lausche, Clerk of Vestry

