



**Minutes of Trinity Cathedral Vestry Meeting
April 18, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.**

Present:

Vestry Members: Jeff Spiess, Sr. 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

Clerk of Vestry: Darrell Lausche

Guest: Carol Gallagher, Leader of Congregational Life Ministry Team; Ginger Bitikofer, Associate for Membership and Congregational Life

Absent: Kim DeNero-Ackroyd, Jr. Warden

- The Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

Formation

1. Opening Devotion – Marie Curry led the Vestry in prayer to open the meeting.
2. Vestry Orientation: Mission Teams

Jeff Spiess provided an orientation to the structure of the Trinity Cathedral Mission Teams. He reviewed the eight Mission Teams that report to the Vestry. Referring to the April 16, 2023, Vestry Retreat, he talked about the interactions between the Mission Teams, congregation, Vestry, and Cathedral Ministries Committee. Examples of each type of interaction were shared. Each Mission Team has a Vestry liaison assigned to it. A rotation of Mission Teams report to the Vestry each month.

3. Mission Team: Congregational Life

Carol Gallagher, Ginger Bitikofer (staff liaison), and Marilyn Valencia (Vestry liaison) shared events that were sponsored by the Congregational Life Ministry Team. Events included fish fries, museum tours, Mardi Gras celebration, and LGBTQ+ monthly events. Carol shared upcoming events, such as Pride in the CLE, summer congregational picnic, summer Goodtime cruise, fall clambake, etc. A Place at the Table has returned to serving hot meals indoors and has an increase in volunteers. Knitting Pearls continues to make baby blankets and prayer shawls and meets with a Friday sewing group. The sewing group is made up of neighborhood residents. Clarifying questions were asked by members of the Vestry.

4. Skills Building: Sustainable Development Goals

Dean Owens tabled the discussion until a future meeting, due to time constraints and the need to conduct monthly business.

Fiduciary Work

1. Adoption of Consent Agenda
 - a. March Minutes
 - b. Committee Charges

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

2. Stewardship Committee

Cynthia Ries shared notes from the first committee meeting on April 7, 2023. Becky Fuller and Luke Taylor are co-chairing the committee. The updated Stewardship Dashboard was also shared. This year’s total pledges are above last year’s totals. 162 pledging households reflects a decrease from last year, but the average pledge amount has increased.

3. Finance Committee & Treasurer’s Report

Paul Herrgesell updated the Vestry with March 2023’s financial reports. The Cathedral finances are above budget for income and below budget for expenditures. Trinity Commons income is on budget. Parking revenue is above budget. Trinity Commons expenses are on budget. Special notes included the receipt of funds for the Employee Retention Tax Credit (with interest), and the CSU lease continuing longer than anticipated. The auditor review is scheduled for the week of April 24, 2023. Results will be shared with the Vestry at the May 2023 meeting. Clarifying questions were asked.

4. Property & Sustainability Committee

Mark Biddlestone discussed the water damage repairs in Cathedral Hall. They should be completed during the week of April 24, 2023. The hearing loop and sound system installation in Cathedral Hall is complete. The end of May will see the completion of sound system upgrades in the Nave. The columbarium expansion is complete, except for one piece of trim. Exterior hardscape repairs will begin later in the spring.

Dean Owens shared information about his invitation to individuals to form a fundraising team for the stained-glass and masonry projects. Mark provided an update for the various phases of the project. Clarifying questions were asked and a discussion about the scale of the project occurred.

Strategic Work

1. Vestry Nominating Committee

Jeff Spiess continued the discussion from the March 2023 meeting about the charges of the Vestry Nominating Committee. First, per the bylaws, the Vestry appoints two Vestry members to work with the elected members. The Vestry members that serve may not be up for reelection. Jeff asked the members to prayerfully consider serving or signaling willingness. Second, Jeff shared information from his research of Parliamentary Procedure and asked for Vestry input regarding a set slate or a competitive slate. Vestry members provided their thoughts. Topics included visibility of the committee, perceptions versus realities, etc.

2. Associate for Development and Program

Dean Owens provided a revision of the job description for an Associate for Development and Programs. He invited questions from the Vestry.



Generative Work

1. Abundant Table Music Director

Dean Owens announced Morgan Mecaskey as the Music Director for the Abundant Table service. He discussed the search process. Questions, concerns, and suggestions were received from Vestry members.

2. Vestry Retreat Review/Refining Goals

Jeff Spiess led the Vestry in an activity to refine the brainstorming of goals that occurred at the Vestry retreat of April 16, 2023. He asked if any goals should be assigned to Ministry Teams or staff members, which goals need to be prioritized, etc. Vestry members provided feedback. Conversation also centered on financial resources for the goals and diocesan-level work.

3. Vestry Retreat Evaluation

Jeff Spiess facilitated discussion regarding feedback from the Vestry retreat on April 16, 2023. Next year's plan is to hold the retreat shortly after the Vestry elections and in more of a retreat setting. The conversation opportunities at this year's retreat were appreciated and valued. Concern over what is done with the work from the retreat was raised.

Closing Prayer

Marie Curry led the Vestry in a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting: May 16, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

Respectfully submitted,



Darrell Lausche, Clerk of Vestry

