

Christ Church Cathedral Vestry Minutes
March 18, 2024
(corrected)

Members Present: Billy Ballard, Susan Barge, Sam Bessey, Ellie Gardner, Anna Grimes, Hal Johnson (Senior Warden), Donald McKenzie, David Morton, David Paine, Tyler Yarbrow

Members Absent: Chris Isbell, John Whitaker, Jay Wellons, Sarah Tally, Susie Ries

Clergy Present: Mary McCarthy, Richard Wineland, Lissa Smith

Others Present: Mark McQueen, Ellen Wright (Clerk)

Opening Prayer

Hal Johnson opened the meeting with a prayer.

Meditation

Donald McKenzie offered a Lenten meditation.

Approval of December Minutes

Minutes of the vestry retreat were approved, as submitted. (Bessey, McKenzie)
Minutes of the special vestry meeting for approval of the new building financing were approved, as submitted. (Grimes, Morton)

Report from Finance Committee

Mark McQueen presented the financial report. Income and expense statement (Bessey, Morton) and balance sheet (McKenzie, Ballard) were approved as submitted. He reported that we have \$7.8M in CDs; the balance in the opportunity fund is \$146K+ ; cash reserves are at 32% (high). The capital campaign report shows that we have paid 85-90% of EOA's fee;. **The Finance committee recommends two actions:** 1) That the remaining \$5K capital campaign pledge to Episcopal School of Nashville be paid off one year early from the opportunity fund. (Bessey, Ballard); 2) That we extend Bishop Mostert's stay at the Cathedral, per his request, through December 31, with a continued monthly stipend of \$1K, for a total of \$9K , also to come from the opportunity fund. (Ballard, Morton) Both motions passed unanimously.

Report from the Christian Formation Commission

Susan Barge, who is turning over the commission leadership to Mary Margaret Sprinkle, reported that last year Dean Kimbrough encouraged her to reorganize and re-energize the commission. In response, they added Young Adults, Creation Care, and the LGBTQ+ alliance. Madeleine Rebouche organized a weekend commission retreat that was well attended by all, with tremendous exchange of ideas that generated the potential to enliven mission. This year, Susan calls a “get ready” year. She expressed the need for lay leadership, parent volunteers, and continual engagement; another retreat might be planned for August. They wish for a paid program coordinator. Ellie Gardner, the CF vestry liaison, was encouraged to put that in a request for next year’s budget. There was some discussion as to why the LGBTQ+ alliance had been grouped with the CF commission.

Report from Search Committee

Hal reported in Sarah Tally’s absence. They hope to have the parish profile finished by month’s end, after which it will be submitted for vestry approval, most likely via a specially called meeting. Next steps are to post with the national church, nominations, screening of applicants by the Diocese, then action by the search committee. Some discussion followed about transparency, exact procedure, and the need to keep the parish informed from the pulpit. We were referred to documents from the Diocese and national church.

Mandated training

Safe church training is online; access is through Mark McQueen. The vestry can schedule a private session with the anti-racism trainer. Some staff may need to, as well.

Interim Rector’s Report

Included in packet. We are planning a service of penance, following the completion of the Isaac Project. The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, canon to presiding bishop for evangelism and author of *Church Cracked Open*, may come preach. There are 6 clergy-led “Making Room” groups about hospitality. Related to that study, Madeleine has organized a test run of supper groups. Anyone may sign up until Easter Monday. Staff changes continue, in an effort to maximize our effectiveness for the new Dean and Rector.

Report on Interim Youth Programming and Youth Minister Search

The Youth Advisory Council is meeting regularly. They have developed a new job description for a youth minister, and it will be posted in the *Living Church*, along with our diocesan website, and with other youth leaders in Chattanooga and Atlanta.

Senior Warden's Report

Building update

Breaking the Bank celebration went well (without injury, despite children wielding sledgehammers.) Youth participation was welcomed and appreciated. About 125 people attended after the 8:45 service, with another 20 or so before the 11:15 service. Hal offered a bit of history: The bank was purchased in 1996 for \$500K. Cecil Wray's children helped retire the debt, with a contribution of approximately \$150K. Parking revenues paid off the remainder over the ensuing several years. We are looking into ways of reusing the limestone in the new building. Someone offered to buy the limestone medallion. Room In The Inn will be served by a kitchenette in the new building.

Mobilization begins this week. Piedmont gas will retire the portion of gas main that is on the site of the new building and then will install a new gas line between the church and hotel, at a cost of \$253,260, to be paid by the church contingency funds.

There remain a few items to be moved from the annex. Asbestos remediation begins tomorrow.

A developer is now rebuilding the archive portion of the website and is about half finished. Funds for this project were approved by last year's vestry. Documents are all intact.

Gibson Pritchard is chairing the Property committee now. They plan a Zoom tomorrow to develop a new game plan and to discuss current needs.

Hal reminded us of the funeral for Bill Coke on April 2.

Men's prayer breakfast is tomorrow at 7 am.

Wednesday night features Rabbi Rami Shapiro.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Hal adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Wright, Clerk

ADDENDA:

An email vote was completed Friday, April 12, approving the Search Committee's Parish Profile, with some edits. There were no abstentions or "no" votes.

An additional email vote was completed Tuesday, April 16, approving the Office of Transitional Ministry Portfolio that was developed by the Search Committee. There were no abstentions or "no" votes.