

Christ Church Cathedral Vestry Minutes
May 20, 2024

Members Present:

Billy Ballard, Susan Barge, Sam Bessey, Ellie Gardner, Anna Grimes, Hal Johnson (Sr. Warden), David Morton, David Paine, Susie Ries (via Zoom), Jay Wellons, John Whitaker (Jr. Warden), Tyler Yarbrow

Members Absent:

Christina Isbell, Donald McKenzie, Sarah Tally

Clergy Present:

Vicki Burgess, Anna Russell Friedman, Madeleine Rebouche, Lissa Smith, Richard Wineland

Others Present:

Ellen Wright (Clerk), Mark McQueen

Opening Prayer

Vicki opened the meeting with a prayer.

Meditation

David Paine gave the meditation.

Approval of April Minutes

Approved, with one correction. (Yarbrow, Bessey)

Agenda was approved.

Report from Finance Committee

Mark McQueen gave the Finance reports, which were included as part of the packet. He reviewed the Income and Expense statements and reported on the use of the opportunity fund.

Balance Sheet (Bessey, Barge) and Income and Expense statement (Bessey, Ballard) were both approved, as presented. The amount currently held in CDs (over \$7M) will

come down as we pay for construction. \$133K remains in the Opportunity Fund. This figure will be updated next month. Endowment has been updated to show increases through the first quarter. There was some discussion of \$1.5M of outstanding pledges for the capital campaign. Trey Tally is helping collect these outstanding pledges.

Mark reviewed the construction finance data. Our first payment to the contractor for Cheek Hall has been added as a new line item. We received about \$19K from our Tempo parking in April. Hal mentioned that draws for the construction will be funded as follows: 50% from our cash on hand (including CDs) and 50% from our loan from First Horizon, which closed on May 10.

Building Update

Cheek Hall and childcare room demolition is underway. They are attempting to finish all interior renovation by fall. Construction will hold off for ordinations and a wedding on June 1. Desaree is documenting ongoing work with photos. Parking lot repair was improved where the gas main was moved. Anna mentioned that the parish may want to know more about the timeline for interior renovation. Ideally, plumbing for the bathrooms will happen in early June. Bathrooms will be available on Sunday mornings, but not necessarily during the week. There was some discussion of an option for a gender neutral restroom. There is one on the second floor now, but these discussions are ongoing.

Website Update

Susan Barge reported on efforts to update the website to make user access easier and more intuitive. Desaree wants to attend to this over the summer. Susan will work with her in July and will bring a template to the vestry. They hope to have it available by Labor Day.

Report from the Outreach Commission

David Morton, chair; Susie Ries, Vestry liaison; Roger Saterstrom, clergy liaison. Roger is improving daily and is in good spirits. He is closer to returning to worship services. All committees need volunteers. Wayfarers are bringing more people into the fold by helping serve Elmarie's breakfast. They are giving away 25 gift cards every Sunday and will do their best to keep it going during construction. Some discussion about reimbursement for Elmarie resulted in suggestions for Kroger gift cards. RITI hosted women and men this year. Next year, we will host at the main RITI Drexel Street campus; tours will be provided. All requests for death row partners are matched. Bicycle burrito ministry is doing great work. CITY (Church in the Yard) has resumed every 4th Sunday, and needs volunteers. Gina Williams is the contact.

Giving Hope gift market did well. Susie spoke about NOAH, which is celebrating their 10th year. The Cathedral has been a member for 9 yr. Their annual banquet is June 18 and could use attendees. Like everything, they would like more volunteers. The Grants committee supports 20 charities, including RITI, Amistad, Hope University, and Family Reconciliation Center, for which Sheri Sellmeyer is the current Board Chair. 225 children now receive tutoring and mentoring from 300 volunteers at Preston Taylor ministries. Summer of 2025, we will have another build for Habitat. Lissa suggested Diocesan Day of Prayer for the build. Grants committee meets every third Wednesday, and the vestry are all invited!

Report from Search Committee

Nominations close tomorrow. Jody has been “terrific” and will do initial vetting. Response has been robust. The committee meets every Wednesday and will be meeting at the end of the month with Jody to look over candidates. Hal hopes to be ex officio at that meeting. Hal commended this strong and committed group of people.

Interim Rector’s Report

Vicki spoke about strength and courage being part of the departing words from any service.

Staff and parish are managing the physical plant transition well. She asked us to support Mark and expressed thanks for Mary McCarthy. The youth committee is close to recommending a youth minister. Vicki will be at General Convention from June 21-29. She recommended exploring *The After Party- toward better Christian Politics* (a way to talk about Christian ethics in a partisan landscape)- as a good idea for fall programming. Isaac project update: the Reverend Canon Stephanie Spellers (canon for the presiding bishop) is coming to conduct a public service of repentance. It will be during the week, rather than on a Sunday, in order to allow as many clergy as would like to attend from other congregations, in particular our partners. Advent 2 is the Bishop’s visit.

Funerals and visitation have been and will be greatly affected by construction. Joe Ingle is friends with Elaine Pagels. She will come talk in November (a coup).

Senior Warden’s Report

Hal detailed the upcoming calendar of events, at the end of the agenda. He encouraged attendance at whatever we can go to.

Sam Bessey talked about planned giving, an update on an effort that he and Donald McKenzie added to the website some years ago. It is accessible via the “Give Now” button on the site. He drew our attention to the rubric on p. 445 in BCP, which addresses planned giving. He also spoke about planned giving at the 8:30 service a week or so ago. He pointed out that a significant portion of our endowment is from bequests and encouraged each of us to put CCC in our wills.

Vicki pointed out that the beauty of healthy endowments (like ours) is the ability to expand ministry.

Adjournment

7:42 p.m. by Hal.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Wright, Clerk

ADDENDA:

Contrary to the notice below, there was no June vestry meeting; hence, there will be no minutes for June. The July meeting will be held July 22, with Sarah Tally bringing the meal and Susan Barge the meditation.

At the instigation of the Senior Warden, and with the approval of the Finance committee, an electronic vote was taken between July 3 and July 5, unanimously approving the emergency expenditure of \$35,517.00 for replacement of an aged and broken HVAC unit on the 3rd floor. Half the money will be drawn from cash reserves and half from the 10% fund.

OUR NEXT VESTRY MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, JUNE 24 at Diocesan House, 3700 Woodmont Blvd .

Meal:

Meditation: David Morton

Commission Report: None

Dates to note:

June 1 Diocesan Ordination

June 8 Anti-Racism Training, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

June 9 Worship in the park and Parish Picnic 10:30 a.m.

June 15 100 Hands – Cathedral Cleanup, 9 a.m. – Noon

June 18 NOAH banquet; details will be sent via Susie

June 20 Pride Ecumenical Service 7 p.m. St. Ann's event hosted by CCC.

June 22 Nashville Pride Parade 9:30 a.m.

June 23-28 Episcopal General Convention – Louisville, KY