

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

December 16, 2024

5:30 p.m.

Christ Church Cathedral In person and via Zoom

Vestry Members Present: Susan Barge, Sam Bessey, Ellie Gardner, Anna Grimes (via Zoom), Chris Isbell, Hal Johnson, Donald McKenzie, David Morton, David Paine, Susie Ries, Sarah Tally, John Whitaker, Tyler Yarbrow

Absent: Billy Ballard, Jay Wellons

Clergy Present: Serena Sides, Anna Russell Friedman, Mary McCarthy, Madeleine Rebouche, Richard Wineland

Others Present: Ellen Wright (clerk), Dale Maxfield (treasurer), Mark McQueen (Business Manager)

Opening Prayer

Dean Serena opened with a prayer.

Meditation

Anna Grimes gave the meditation.

Approval of Agenda

Approved, as submitted. (Whitaker, Tally)

Approval of November Minutes

Approved, as submitted. (Paine, McKenzie)

Report from Finance Committee

Dale reviewed the Income and Expense report, which is included in the packet and was unanimously approved. (Bessey, Whitaker)

There was some discussion of unpaid pledges.

The Balance sheet was then reviewed and unanimously approved. Dale pointed out that the endowment line will be adjusted at the end of the quarter. We have not yet received the Lancaster bequest. (Bessey, Yarbrow)

Cash reserves sit at 29.45%, compared with our goal of 25%. Dale emphasized the need for them to build at year end, in anticipation of the typical decreased cash flow in early 2025.

Capital Campaign report records receipts of \$9.9M in pledges. We earned \$33.4K in interest in the past month. Thus far, we have made about half the draws from the 18 scheduled. There will be bigger ones coming, but no surprises anticipated. \$5.3M remains to be drawn. Dale reminded us that the Lasley report shows payments that have been approved, not what has been paid out. We still expect that the project will be on time and on budget.

Compared to last year at this time, we have \$1.623M pledged, vs. \$1.699M last year. 320 pledges have been recorded, of which 29 are new (avg. \$2900), 157 increased, 43 decreased, and 91 unchanged. The next month will be critical.

The draft budget was discussed. Since last month, \$50K has been added to the endowment income line item, after discussions with Trey Tally and Pete Stringer. Finance committee requests to continue to fund the security services (including training for Cathedral staff) from the Opportunity Fund, unless the pledges will cover it. Unanimously approved. (Isbell, Whitaker)

Dale presented the Balance the Budget committee of the vestry officers, Sarah Tally, Mark McQueen, and the Dean and Rector. Unanimously adopted (Ries, Tally) and established (Ries, Morton).

A motion to accept an anonymous \$35.7K gift for the replacement of pew cushions was unanimously passed. (Bessey, Paine) Susan reported that the property committee had discussed the options, after consultation with other churches in the diocese and architects.

Blankenship CPAs has submitted a clean audit for 2022 and 2023, along with a governance letter re: a repeat entry in the investments column, giving an error of \$3.3M. (All reports to the vestry have been correct.) When the report to Blankenship was submitted, the error appeared and was an accountant mistake. Mark will double check the balances from now on. We are looking at a new accountant. Audit was accepted unanimously. (Bessey, Yarbrow)

The clergy housing allowances were approved and are a part of the packet. (Tally, McKenzie)

Report from Evangelism Commission

Maura Black Sullivan and Matthew Kenny reported. Highlights: expanding reach and strengthening committees. They expanded on BB@6 progress and inclusion of pets.

2025: evolving urbanism and gentrification will be studied, along with ways to further downtown engagement. Fact sheet about growth of downtown is part of the report and is included in the packet. Their excellent report is recommended reading.

Other Business

-John reported on the formation of the vestry nominating committee. The members are: Ben Turnage, Karmine Quiggle, Jay Wellons, Tyler Yarbrow, and John Whitaker

-The nominees are: Maura Black Sullivan, Lawrence Blank, Deaver Collins, Scott Hoffman, Matthew Kenny, Gina Lodge, Andrew Reducha, Keith Simmons, Susan Standbrook, and John Teasley

-Motion was unanimously approved to open the polls at noon, Jan 19 and close them at noon, Jan 26 (Bessey, Morton)

-John reviewed the process, which ends with calls to the nominees from the wardens, with general publication of those elected the next day.

David Morton reported on Christmas Unlimited: about 200 people per night raised \$12,400 over two nights. He mentioned that they were looking at making the Outreach page on the website a way to sign up.

Dean's Report

The first 3 wk, 2 days on the job have been fun and interesting. Highlights: Advent 1 had 588 in attendance; there were 206 at service of repentance, which was powerful. It involved lots of good work from both members and non-members; Serena thanked the wardens and mentioned that she has written many thank you notes to volunteers. Prayers from the service will be posted to the Isaac project website, with a copy to the Rev. Stephanie Spellers.

Bishop's visit drew 426; last Sunday, there were 356 across all services.

Adult formation on Sunday will engage in reflections on the repentance service.

340 came to Lessons and Carols. There were 75 children in the Christmas pageant; 65 adults in the pews.

She is setting up regular check-ins with clergy. Social gatherings are coming up, providing a chance to meet parishioners. She is starting to attend different sorts of events, e.g. Men's breakfast, in order to learn about individual groups.

Communications contractor working out well. Lots of social media posts that are being noticed. They meet once a week.

Serena will be teaching Jan 5 Adult Formation Jeopardy "to get to know Serena." The following two classes will be about theology and our language of God. After the Annual meeting, there will be a 5 week class on Peter, then a joint venture in Lent. Another parishioner will be

teaching in Easter season. Groups that want a speaker will be asked to centralize requests. We will begin sending quarterly pledge statements that will include Capital Campaign figures.

Some discussion of pledging delinquencies and how it is being handled. Looking into Realm's handling of pledge payments.

Serena thanked the clergy for seeing us through the transition.

Senior Warden's Report

Hal thanked Serena for using her time off to meet people.

Serena adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Wright, Clerk

ADDENDUM:

A resolution was proposed (Johnson, Whitaker) via email:

Resolved, that at the 2025 Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee, the Vestry and Wardens of Christ Church Cathedral nominate Edward A. Burgess for a seat on the Dandridge Trust Board.

It passed with 14 yes votes and no abstentions or no votes, recorded on Jan. 19.