

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

June 16, 2025

6:30 p.m.

Christ Church Cathedral

Vestry Members Present: Billy Ballard, Susan Barge, Lawrence Blank-Cook, Sam Bessey, Maura Black Sullivan, Deaver Collins, Ellie Gardner, Anna Grimes Noser, Gina Lodge, Chris Isbell, David Morton, David Paine, Sarah Tally

Absent: Donald McKenzie, Keith Simmons

Clergy Present: Serena Sides, Madeleine Rebouche

Others Present: Ellen Wright (clerk), Dale Maxfield (Treasurer)

Opening Prayer

At 6:30 p.m., Dean Serena opened with a prayer.

Meditation

David Paine gave the meditation.

Approval of Agenda

Approved, as submitted. (Bessey, Ballard)

Approval of Minutes

Approved, as submitted. (Ballard, Gardner)

Report from Finance Committee (Dale Maxfield)

The Income and Expense statement was approved. (Bessey, Paine) Dale reported the highlights from his narrative report, which is included. Pledges are up 2.1%, which is excellent for this time of year, but may not be sustained through the summer. Interest rates are still up. Salaries and benefits are still the driver of expenses. There was a non-budgeted expense of \$43,000+ for the pension fund fix.

The balance sheet was approved. (Bessey, Blank-Cook) Dale reported on the balance sheet. Our cash balance is over \$1M. We have \$6.5M in Capital Campaign funds. There is \$95K in the Opportunity Fund, which will meet the current obligations of that fund. All balances have been updated. Larry Lancaster estate recently paid \$150K to CC, with one more check to come.

Cash reserves stand at 31% currently, but will decline over the summer.

Bottom line: We are at a good place.

Construction report: \$19,378 paid in pledges for the month, and more are still paying. Main expense is now to RC Mathews Construction. We have \$2.175M left to draw on the loan; \$4.8M has been drawn already. The Lasley report was reviewed. Have spent \$12M+, with \$6M+ left to spend.

It looks as if we were \$33K short in report, but that was covered by landscaping approval in May.

Outreach Commission Report

Sheri Sellmeyer gave the highlights, with a more detailed written report as part of our packet: This year's budget is \$191K, reflecting less pledge income, compared to last year. (First Presbyterian Church suspended all outreach this year.) Wayfarers get the bulk of the money, with coupons and breakfast. RITI is 2nd, with \$4K. It has been held at the main campus this year, with up to 25 men served. Shout out to the urban bicycle food ministry. A former recipient helps out by going through clothes to let us know who needs what. Madeleine passed on Joe Ingle's wish that we support prison ministry. Giving Hope market was largely remote (and in Cheek Hall) last year, with substantially lower intake. Looking forward to having it upstairs this year. Of remaining 11 recipients, \$31K goes to St. Luke's preschool (who need volunteers for mobile meals and food prep, per Lawrence.) There has been a 17% increase in visitors to family reconciliation house, with a 77% increase in room nights. They have a great manager now. We support 3 international groups: Amistad, Haiti, and St. George's in Iraq. Much to look forward to in new space. Madeleine reminded us of \$22K Easter offering for NICE.

Some discussion of outreach info and redesigned website. There is a hope that it will be more accessible.

Other Business

None reported.

Dean's Report

The Dean brought note cards, address lists, and asked for handwritten notes from the vestry to consistent annual pledgers. We will need to stamp and send, with our personal return addresses. **Deadline for sending these is August 1.**

Stewardship update: The committee is currently trying to figure out how much to write off, which, thankfully, is less than projected. Serena reminded us that the operating pledge should always be considered a priority before any capital pledge.

Open house for new building will be held in lieu of a stewardship kick off party.

Stewardship chairs this year are Mary Miller and Joseph Watson, with the Sprinkles in the wings for next year and Anna Grimes acting as advisor.

Mission and values statement revision was discussed. A vote on the mission statement was unanimously approved. (Tally, Blank-Cook)

Historically, Cathedral Arts has sometimes sent fundraising letters only to non-cathedral members. This year, solicitation will be combined with the schedule and sent to everyone. May consider including a suggested amount.

Dean Serena is putting together a hospitality team (under Parish Life Commission), with 2 co-chairs, for receptions, etc. Great way for newcomers to be incorporated. The bereavement committee is still separate, but its organization is under discussion with Deacon Mary. One option is to form small pastoral care committees, with a funeral reception component.

Staff updates: Director of communications: Emily Joy Allison, June 21, will take over for Kristen Rather, who will stay on part time to help with website build out. Website style will drive the look of all other emails and bulletins, etc.

Anzora is now solely responsible for bulletins and is paid by the piece.

Serena has completed reviews of almost all staff, with the opportunity to thank everyone.

Anna Russell will have a C-section tomorrow.

Supper groups (formerly Foyer Groups) will launch in August, to begin in September.

Eight captains have already volunteered. More are being recruited by Rebecca Collins and Caroline Rossini.

The Dean will be on vacation next week.

Senior Warden's Report

The building is moving along- on time and on budget. Regular construction meetings are every other Thursday. July 17 at 9:45, vestry and clergy are invited for a tour.

Upcoming events:

Pride month events: Andy Webber on pronouns this Sunday.

6/28 is pride parade at the cathedral at 10 am. Taking Uber is encouraged, since Lot A will not be accessible.

We will lose about 10 more parking places in Lot A through mid-August.

Serena adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Wright, Clerk

