

## **Christ Church Cathedral Vestry Minutes**

Monday, November 23, 2020

via Zoom

*The Bishop of Tennessee has authorized virtual vestry meetings as a permissible substitute for in-person meetings at this time.*

### **Vestry Members Present**

Ken King (Senior Warden), Pete Stringer (Junior Warden), Win Bassett, Denise Bentley, John Bridges, Wyeth Burgess, Becca Ingle, Jill Meese, Karmine Quiggle, Trone Sawyer, Brooks Smith, Varina Willse and Ellen Wright

### **Vestry Members Absent**

Christina Callaway, Ben Fuqua

### **Clergy Members Present**

The Very Rev. Timothy Kimbrough, the Rev. Matthew Lewis, the Rev. Lissa Smith

### **Clergy Members Absent**

The Ven. Roger Saterstrom

### **Others Present**

Dale Maxfield (Treasurer), Mark McQueen, Caroline Rossini (Clerk)

### **Opening Prayer**

Dean Kimbrough opened the meeting in prayer.

### **Approval of October Vestry Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from October's vestry meeting were approved with amendment (Bridges, Meese).

### **Finance Committee Report**

Dale Maxfield presented the financial statements. The income statement was unanimously approved (Stringer, Sawyer). The balance sheet was also unanimously approved (Stringer, Wright). Dale mentioned that the forgiveness process for the PPP loan likely will not be finalized until next year.

### **2021 Pledge Drive Update**

Dale also presented the stewardship campaign report. At the beginning of last week, a follow-up was made with all who are signed up for Realm but have not renewed a pledge. Timothy is

reaching out to those who have not registered for Realm and have not pledged. The campaign co-chairs have a team that will be making phone calls in early December. The vestry was advised to expect that the 'new pledges' line will be significantly impacted this year, without any newcomers and visitors in the building since March.

### **First Draft of 2021 Budget Review**

A first draft of the budget for 2021 was presented, based on the assumptions that pledges will stay flat and no new programming will begin until the fourth quarter. There was some discussion about whether it would be prudent to assume an earlier ramp-up of programming. The finance committee will present a final balanced budget to the vestry at its December meeting as more pledge drive data becomes available.

### **Christmas Offering**

Jill Meese, on behalf of the Grants Committee, shared the following recommendation. The Grants Committee writes, "...the 2nd installment for Boc Banique was originally scheduled for Easter 2020. It was to have been the 2nd of 3 designated offerings. With the Nashville tornado and the COVID pandemic, the 2nd Boc Banique offering was temporarily postponed to raise immediate funds for local relief and support. To date 50% of the COVID emergency relief funds have been distributed and we believe there continues to be adequate reserves to meet requests for the remainder of the calendar year. As a result, we believe we can continue to provide needed local support while also funding the 2nd installment of the Boc Banique project." Becca Ingle clarified that the money has already been given to the school; this will reimburse the Opportunity Fund. The vestry unanimously approved (Meese, Sawyer).

### **RESOLUTION #11.1**

Resolved, that the Christ Church Cathedral Vestry, gathered via Zoom for its regularly scheduled meeting, October 2020, on recommendation of the Grants Committee and in cooperation with the Dean's office designates the 2020 Christmas offering to benefit the building of the school at Boc Banique, Haiti.

### **Vestry Nominating Committee and Vestry Election Update**

Win Bassett provided an update. The committee received 49 suggestions for nominees, and from here the committee will finalize a slate of 10 willing individuals. The bishop has approved absentee voting for this year, and the hope is that the vast majority of parishioners will vote electronically on a simple Google Form ballot. The committee will reconcile online votes with the list of eligible voters before votes are counted. Individuals already on the "paper-only" mailing list will receive a paper ballot automatically. There will be paper ballots to be picked up at the Cathedral as well for those who cannot or will not vote electronically.

### **Annual Parish Meeting Discussion**

Dean Kimbrough discussed current plans and considerations for the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting, which will needfully be virtual this year. Agenda items will include an update on the capital campaign and building plans, a report on the Lot C Ground Lease, a general report on programming, and a look ahead. Normally the parish meeting spans the week between two Sundays. There was further discussion about whether the timeframe should be extended this year to ensure paper ballots have sufficient time to be completed and returned.

### **The Isaac Project Update**

A brief update was provided on the Isaac Project work, and a full proposal will be in front of the vestry at the December meeting. Dean Kimbrough has had initial conversations with possible committee members, including Fletch Coke. Varina Willse asked if a budget for this project should be considered in tandem with the 2021 budget. (There is not a proposed budget for this project at this time; we may need to use the Opportunity Fund when the time comes.) Several members of the vestry also volunteered to read a decade's worth of historic Vestry minutes between now and the January meeting.

### **Update on Shared Ministry Discussions with St. Anselm's.**

On behalf of the committee, Ken King reported what began as a request for funding for a vicar has evolved into an opportunity for shared ministry. A rough vision statement has been articulated with 4 major objectives: evangelism, racial reconciliation & racial justice, walking together, and campus ministry. More details and a proposal for consideration will follow at December's meeting.

### **Sewanee Board of Regents Statement**

A new resolution was presented, and unanimously approved, showing support for a recent statement issued by the Board of Regents of the University of the South (Stringer/Smith).

#### **RESOLUTION #11.2**

Resolved, that the Christ Church Cathedral Vestry, Nashville, TN, affirm the statement by the Board of Regents of the University of the South, dated September 8, 2020, in which it "categorically rejects its past veneration of the Confederacy and of the "Lost Cause" and wholeheartedly commits itself to an urgent process of institutional reckoning in order to make Sewanee a model of diversity, of inclusion, of intellectual rigor, and of loving spirit in an America that rejects prejudice and embraces possibility"; and be it further

Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Bishop of Tennessee, the Vice Chancellor of the University of the South, and its Board of Regents.

### **Resolution for Diocesan Convention**

The vestry unanimously passed the following resolution, which makes Christ Church Cathedral the sponsor of this proposed resolution at the upcoming 189th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee (Stringer, Sawyer).

#### **RESOLUTION #11.3**

Resolved, that the Christ Church Cathedral Vestry, move the consideration of the following resolution to the upcoming Annual Convention of the Diocese of Tennessee:

*Whereas the General Convention of the Episcopal Church has mandated Anti-Racism training for clergy, along with elected and appointed leadership throughout the Church since the year 2000 (B049); and*

*Whereas, the Diocese of Tennessee (2018) has urged its clergy and lay person to confront the sin of racism in "our churches, diocesan institutions and communities"; therefore be it*

*Resolved, that this 189th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee require the elected members of the Standing Committee, Bishop and Council, and the General Convention deputation complete the Anti-Racism curriculum of the Episcopal Church (Seeing the Face of God in Each Other) along with the appointed member of the Commission on Ministry; and be it further*

*Resolved, that all parishes, missions, chaplaincies, and institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee confirm by report to the Secretary of this Convention that all elected and appointed members of their vestries, mission committees/councils, and boards have completed this Anti-Racism training before the commencement of the 191st Annual Convention of this Diocese.*

### **2021 Fair Share Commitment**

The vestry unanimously accepted the requested 2021 Fair Share Commitment for Christ Church Cathedral, which is calculated as 10% of the three-year rolling average of revenue (Stringer, Smith).

#### **RESOLUTION #11.4**

Resolved, that the Christ Church Cathedral Vestry, Nashville, TN, accept the 2021 Fair Share Commitment of \$300,893.00.

### **Dean's Report**

Dean Kimbrough reported that after consulting with the in-person worship advisory committee and taking into account current local guidelines, worship is moving back to online-only for until further notice. At this time Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgies have not been cancelled, but this will need to be re-evaluated as the time nears.

A second iteration of P.O.D.s (Parishioners On Devices) is beginning for Advent. The Rev. Lissa Smith shared a link to RSVP. All groups will be reading the same book: *Learning to Walk in the Dark*.

Yesterday, about sixty families drove through the parking lot to pickup Advent wreath supplies from the team of Catechesis volunteers and clergy.

Finally, Dean Kimbrough offered some words of encouragement for any who might be growing weary of virtual worship on the YouTube feed. He suggests: rather than treating it like a movie, treat it like a jazz album. Have it playing in the background. Let it fill your home. If there's something that especially grabs your attention or sparks your imagination, come back to it later and listen again.

### **Adjournment**

Dean Kimbrough offered a parting blessing. There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caroline Rossini, Clerk