

Christ Church Cathedral Vestry Minutes
September 27, 2021 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

Vestry Members Present

Denise Bentley, John Bridges, Christina Callaway, Erica Chappell, Brad Daugherty, Ben Fuqua, Jill Meese, Karmine Quiggle, Brooks Smith, Pete Stringer (Sr. Warden), Kelsey Urness, Varina Willse (Jr. Warden), Amy Woodson, Ellen Wright

Vestry Members Absent

Eran Stanley

Clergy Present

The Very Rev. Timothy Kimbrough, the Rev. Canon Matthew Lewis, the Rev. Canon Lissa Smith, the Rev. Canon Anna Russell Friedman, the Rev. Richard Wineland

Others Present

Mark McQueen, Caroline Rossini (Clerk), Becca Walton (Seminararian)

Opening Prayer and Meditation

Dean Kimbrough opened the meeting in prayer. Christina Callaway offered a meditation.

Approval of Agenda & August Vestry Meeting Minutes

The minutes from April's Vestry meeting were approved as amended (Bridges, Meese).

Finance Committee Report & Approval

Mark McQueen presented the financial statements. The Income & Expense statement was accepted (Stringer, Smith), as was the Balance Sheet (Stringer, Wright). First Horizon recently informed us that the SBA PPP loan and small amount of accrued interest have been completely forgiven. Audit work for 2020 is underway.

Evangelism Commission Report

The Rev. Matthew Lewis provided a report on behalf of the Evangelism Commission. Christina is vestry liaison. Andrea Tucker is chair. Committees include Greeters, Newcomers, Journey in Faith (JiF), and Downtown Engagement. These groups create opportunities that invite people into our life and worship. Last year, we hosted an outdoor liturgy for Feast of St. Francis with a Blessing of the Animals. Last year's JiF class occurred via Zoom, and even so, there was a strong group. Virginia Vagt is the new chair of the Newcomers Committee. They hosted a Newcomers Picnic on Diocesan Lawn over the summer and have plans in place to reach out to folks who are identified as newcomers. Another Newcomers Picnic is planned for mid-October.

A new cohort of JiF will launch at the end of October; about 90 invitations will go out to potential participants. The Greeters ministry recently lost its leader; Josh Rich, former chair, moved out of town.

The Evangelism Commission hopes to offer more in-person events as the status of public health improves. The new check-in system for worship has created an excellent new pipeline for identifying and connecting with newcomers at the church.

Varina Willse commented that the BB@6 jazz mass last night clearly worked double-duty as evangelism. Outdoor gatherings at the church bring people in because we are visible and the physical barrier walking through the doors is eliminated.

Karmine shared how much she has enjoyed serving as a new greeter, and reflected that this ministry speaks volumes for what we hope to be as a community.

Walking Together (St. Anselm's) Update

Christina Callaway provided an update on the partnership with St. Anselm's. Worship at St. Anselm's is in-person, and they welcome all with no reservation required. Campus evangelism had a great kick-off this weekend with a food truck event. Over 150 students attended from TSU, Fisk & Meharry. Dr. Billy Ballard and Virginia & Peter Vagt also volunteered at the event. There was a check-in process to record student's contact information, and we received some names of potential ambassadors for each campus. Overall it was a great success in terms of turnout and engagement. Photos from this event and future events will be sent to the Communications department so the partnership can be highlighted for the congregation. The committee is working on a social media launch. Dean Kimbrough added that the Cathedral Communications staff will be available to support this partnership as it continues to develop.

Third Party Partnership Working Group / HRI Update

Pete Stringer shared an update about recent conversations with the TPPWG and HRI, in which HRI had communicated they would not be able to meet the Dec. 1 deadline requiring them to have bank financing and permitting in place. In light of this information, the officers and TPPWG discussed the possibility of engaging an attorney, unaffiliated with CCC or the project. Ellen Wright and Charlie Cook, on behalf of the TPPWG and CCC, replied to HRI in clear terms, reiterating CCC will continue to act in good faith and operate under the terms of the ground lease. HRI sent a response outlining their progress. Ellen then summarized the interactions with HRI to date.

A motion was made and duly seconded (Meese, Daugherty) to authorize the Vestry officers, having consulted with the church Finance Committee, to hire outside counsel (counsel to-date uninvolved with the project) to review the Ground Lease and offer an opinion regarding options for Christ Church Cathedral should HRI not meet its obligations by December 1st.

Considerable discussion followed.

John Bridges then called the question to terminate debate and vote on the resolution. 14 members voted to terminate debate; none voted opposed; and there were no abstentions.

Members then voted on the resolution itself, with 14 in favor, none opposed, and no abstentions:

RESOLVED: The Vestry authorizes the Vestry officers, having consulted with the church Finance Committee, to hire outside counsel (counsel to-date uninvolved with the project) to review the Ground Lease and offer an opinion regarding options for Christ Church Cathedral should HRI not meet its obligations by December 1st.

Dean's Report

The Vestry Nominating Committee has been formed: Dean Kimbrough appointed Hal Johnson, and Greer Broemel; Pete Stringer appointed Trey Tally. Varina Willse and Jill Meese were selected by lot from the outgoing Vestry class.

Becca Walton shared an update on the Sunday morning vaccination clinic. Seventy-two shots have been administered so far.

John Bridges and Brad Daugherty shared an update on the Isaac Project. The team had a great meeting last night and discussed a weekly report in Happenings. The group is transitioning from collecting data to being ready to report to the rest of the church.

Dean Kimbrough shared that by tomorrow afternoon, about 20 people will be trained as volunteers for worship check-in. The goal is to have a team ready to cover Sunday mornings and evenings through October and November.

The Nashville AIDS Walk has gone virtual this year. However, to symbolically participate, the CCC "team" will gather at 9:30 in CCC parking lot, walk down to Riverfront Park and back.

There were more people at church in the morning this Sunday than we have at any point since the Covid shutdown. The BB@6 Jazz Mass was astonishing: the music was fabulous, and the turnout was very strong.

Regarding the delay in rolling out a full schedule, a few folks have expressed appreciation for this decision, while others (one young family in particular) have been discouraged. Please keep your ear to the ground and pass along feedback like this. It is important for us to be present to those who think we are moving too slowly.

There are several new events beginning over the next 2 months: story time with the Good Shepherd during the 8:30 liturgy, at the time of the Gospel lesson & sermon; continued outdoor worship for BB@6; bonfires for families and friends on October 30 & November 20; adult Sunday school at 4:30 on Sunday afternoons.

This is the second Sunday announcing this year's pledge drive. As the church's leadership, please help set the tone and get your pledge in. It may be a difficult year for us; we have households who have been affected economically. This would be a year to increase your gift if you are able. Pray that our mission and ministry might not be hampered in the coming year due to a shortage of funds. Your staff is working well and hard to continue their work during this time. We are marching to Zion.

Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting of the Vestry will be Monday, October 25 at 5:30 p.m., hopefully in-person but subject to change depending on the state of public health. Dean Kimbrough offered a closing blessing. There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Rossini, Clerk

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