

Christ Church Cathedral Vestry Retreat Minutes

February 11-12, 2022

*St. Mary's Sewanee
770 St. Mary's Lane
Sewanee, TN 37375*

Vestry Members Present

Denise Bentley, Christina Callaway, Erica Chappell, Brad Daugherty, Ben Fuqua, Hal Johnson, Karmine Quiggle, Susie Ries, Brooks Smith, Eran Stanley, Kelsey Urness, Jay Wellons, John Whitaker, Amy Woodson, Tyler Yarbro

Clergy Present

The Very Rev. Timothy Kimbrough, the Rev. Madeleine Rebouché, the Ven. Roger Saterstromm, the Rev. Canon Lissa Smith, the Rev. Richard Wineland

Others Present

Caroline Rossini (Clerk)

FRIDAY, February 11

Opening Prayer

The meeting began with Evening Prayer and supper, followed by introductions around the room.

Approval of Minutes from January

The minutes from January's meeting were approved as presented (Fuqua, Daugherty).

Election of Vestry Officers

The outgoing vestry officers, Pete Stringer and Varina Willse, joined the meeting to nominate new officers. Caroline Rossini was elected as Clerk (Stringer, Callaway). Dale Maxfield was elected Treasurer (Stringer, Ries). Karmine Quiggle was elected Junior Warden (Willse, Chappell). Tyler Yarbro was elected Senior Warden (Willse, Johnson).

Christ Church Mission and Commissions

Dean Kimbrough presented the Christ Church mission statement and commission structure. Caroline Rossini explained the role of the Vestry Liaison.

Compline

The evening's session concluded with Compline.

SATURDAY, February 12

Morning Prayer

The second session began with Morning Prayer.

The Report of the Isaac Project

Following a visit by Lawrence Blank-Cook, chair, at January's Vestry meeting, the Isaac Project Phase 1 Committee submitted a report to the Vestry. After reviewing and discussing the report, the vestry unanimously approved the following resolution (Daugherty, Smith):

Resolved, that the Christ Church Cathedral Vestry, meeting on Saturday, February 12, 2022, at St. Mary's Retreat Center, Sewanee, TN, receives the report of the Isaac Project, Phase One Committee; and be it further

Resolved, that the Vestry commits to the study and address of the report's recommendations, asking the Vestry Officers to create, charge and fund Isaac Project committees accordingly by the end of May 2022.

Strategic Plan and Capital Improvement

Caroline Rossini, Clerk, shared an overview of the Christ Church Strategic Plan, its origins and implementation. Discussion followed about various initiatives.

Dean Kimbrough reported that this week, HRI will close on their financing for development of Lot C. The Vestry charged building committee in February 2020 to move forward with plans, and the building committee is working on getting the next step of drawings and cost estimates. The Capital Campaign committee is ready to pick up the work on closing the funding gap. Should expect reports in April or May.

The group then said Noonday Prayers and went to lunch.

Calendar Planning

The schedule below was agreed upon for Vestry Meetings this year. The Vestry will meet in-person with a hybrid option. Meetings will begin with Evening Prayer at 5:15pm, followed by supper at 5:45pm, with the meeting called to order at 6:30pm.

- Monday, March 28, 5:15pm
- Monday, April 25, 5:15pm
- *Sunday, May 22, 12:30pm-2:30pm (working lunch)
- Monday, June 27, 5:15pm
- No meeting in July
- Tuesday, August 30, 5:15pm
- Monday, September 26, 5:15pm
- Monday, October 24, 5:15pm
- *Monday, November 21, 5:15pm
- *Monday, December 19, 5:15pm
- Monday, January 23, 5:15pm
- 2023 Vestry Planning Retreat—February 10 and 11, 2023 (at St. Mary's Conference Center)

Conflict of Interest Disclosures

The following conflicts of interest were disclosed:

- Kelsey Urness: board of directors, St. Luke's
- Brooks Smith: board of directors, Episcopal School of Nashville
- Dale Maxfield: employed by First Horizon Bank
- Caroline Rossini: board of directors, DuBose Conference Center
- Roger Saterstrom, Brooks Smith, Susie Ries: voting representatives at NOAH

Banking Documents

The following resolution to approve signers for bank accounts was approved unanimously:

Resolved, to authorize Karmine Quiggle (Junior Warden), Tyler Yarbrow (Senior Warden), Katy Varney, Brooks Smith, Dave Goetz, Charlie Cook III as check signers on the general fund account, capital campaign account, and clergy discretionary funds for Madeleine, Roger, Timothy, Lissa, Matthew. (Daugherty, Whitaker)

Capital Campaign Fund Custodian

The following resolution was unanimously approved:

Resolved, to appoint Trey Tally as Capital Campaign Fund Custodian (Johnson, Bentley).

Calendar Planning, continued

These upcoming parish-wide events were highlighted:

- 2022 Parish picnic: Sunday, April 24
- 2022 Vacation Bible School: week of June 20th
- 2022 Parish Retreat: Labor Day weekend
- 2023 Every Member Canvass
- 2023 Vestry retreat dates: 02/10/23 to 02/11/23
- 2023 Annual Parish meeting dates: 1/22/23 and 1/29/23
- 2023 Annual Convention of the Diocese of TN: 1/20 — 1/21 at St. David's Episcopal Church, Nashville, TN

Vestry Liaison & Fortnight Assignments

Vestry Liaisons - Karmine Quiggle presented liaison assignments:

- Pastoral Care: Erica Chappell
- Administration: Brooks Smith
- Parish Life: Kelsey Urness
- Liturgy: Amy Woodson
- Outreach: Ben Fuqua and Susie Ries
- Evangelism: Christina Callaway
- Christian Formation: Eran Stanley
- Cathedral Life: Denise Bentley and John Whitaker
- Building Committee / Capital Campaign: Hal Johnson
- Isaac Project: Brad Daugherty
- Medical Advisory Council: Jay Wellons

Caroline Rossini explained the "Vestry Member of the Fortnight" program and shared a schedule of assigned dates (see Vestry Documents-2022 folder in Google Drive).

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

Dean Kimbrough led the group in prayers for early evening. There being no further business to consider, the meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Caroline Rossini, Clerk

To: The Christ Church Cathedral Vestry
From: The Isaac Project Phase One Committee
Re: Charge and Work Assigned by the Vestry (12/21/2020)
Date: February 11, 2022

Vestry Charge

The committee was formed “for the purpose of considering and narrating the history of Christ Church, Nashville, from its founding to the present day, with a keen awareness of how congregations with an antebellum past have benefitted from and grown based on prevailing anti-Black racist sentiment of the society and people they were serving.”¹

Findings

- Isaac, enslaved by T Washington, was presented for baptism at Christ Church, Nashville, TN by T Washington on September 1, 1842.
- Comments written in the baptismal registers of Christ Church indicate that at least another 17 persons, similarly identified, were presented for baptism at Christ Church, Nashville, TN between 1841-1867.
- All of the five founding Vestry members of Christ Church enslaved other people.²
- One Rector of Christ Church, Nashville, the Reverend Dr. Wheat, enslaved other persons according to the census of 1840.³
- The practice of requiring pew rental in order to serve on a vestry or vote in vestry elections, erected and sustained racial and class barriers to church leadership.⁴
- Ministry to people of African descent was uneven and variously reported to the Diocese of Tennessee.⁵
- Some gifts received by the Christ Church Vestry memorialized members of Christ Church who had enslaved others or had leadership roles in the Confederate States of America.⁶
- The 100 year history of Christ Church published in 1929 is fraught and peppered with the rhetoric, vocabulary and sentiment of the “Lost Cause.”⁷
- Action was taken by the Christ Church Vestry to encourage the Board of Trustees at the Sewanee School of Theology in maintaining an all-white admissions policy, suppressing efforts being made to advance equality for and the admission of Black people to the student body at the School of Theology.⁸
- Action was taken (and subsequently rescinded) by the Christ Church Vestry to restrict the Rector’s prerogative to designate use of the Christ Church campus. The action specifically

¹ Minutes of the [Christ Church Cathedral Vestry, December 21, 2020](#).

² [Tennessee State Library and Archives Research](#)

³ [1840 census](#)

⁴ Minutes of the [Christ Church Vestry, June 27, 1831](#)

⁵ Minutes of the [12th Annual Convention of the Clergy and Laity of Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee, May 1840](#)

⁶ [Christ Church Cathedral Archives](#), (Dec. 1894 Kate Polk Gale altar stand and Aunt Viney brass urns; nd [Stained Glass windows Numbers 16 and 28](#) in memory of George Augustine Washington and Jane Smith Washington)

⁷ [The First 100 Years](#); see also *Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause, 1865-1920* by Charles Reagan Wilson; and *The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History*. Edited by Gary W. Gallagher, and Alan T. Nolan.

⁸ Minutes of the [Christ Church Vestry, November 12, 1951](#)

excluded the work of the Nashville Community Relations Council that at the time was working for the civil rights of African-Americans in Nashville.⁹

- Action was taken by the Christ Church Vestry encouraging the Bishop of TN in his opposition to the creation of the Liberation School at St. Anselm's Episcopal Chapel in August 1967.¹⁰
- Ministry to North Nashville was neglected. There was neglect of the African-American population of Nashville in the formation of missions and new churches and a favoring of the chaplaincy to Vanderbilt over the chaplaincy at TSU/Fisk/Meharry, in terms of commitment and support.¹¹

Recommendations

- Commission the writing of an addendum to the 1929 History of Christ Church, Nashville, that acknowledges the shortcomings of its writing.
- Commission the writing of a history of Christ Church, including the second hundred years which may require the hiring of a full-time historian-in-residence.
- Consult with sister and partner congregations across Nashville regarding a public reading and discussion of the findings of the Isaac Project committee.
- Prepare a public service of repentance in which the sins of complicity with racist and unjust structures of society are confessed.
- Prepare a comprehensive review of ministries to and with the people, churches, and non-profits of North Nashville.
- Prepare for a comprehensive review, by commission, of the ministries of the Cathedral, on the eve of the Cathedral's bicentennial, that every aspect of Cathedral life might be directed toward ministering to a multi-cultural congregation.
- Consider what current and proposed actions of the Cathedral community will be the penance provided for the confession made and forgiveness assigned.

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Resolved, that the Vestry commits to the study and address of the report's recommendations, asking the Vestry Officers to create, charge and fund Isaac Project committees accordingly by the end of May 2022.

⁹ Minutes of the [Christ Church Vestry, April 1960](#) (rescinded July 15, 1960)

¹⁰ Minutes of the [Christ Church Vestry, August 1967](#)

¹¹ Minutes of the Christ Church Vestry, [March 9, 1959](#); [September 11, 1961](#); [May 13, 1963](#); [March 9, 1964](#).