

Grace Episcopal Cathedral Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – November 17, 2020

Present: Rick Backlund, Brenda Kebert, Tammy King, Cyndi Langston, Ron Langston, Dean Torey Lightcap, Mother Ashley Mather, Gwen McClain, Steve Roth, Lance Royer, Chris Shermoen, Susan Weber

The meeting (held via Zoom due to the COVID 19 pandemic) opened with prayer.

October Minutes: *A motion was made and seconded to accept the October 2020 vestry minutes as presented.*
Motion unanimously carried.

Treasurer's report: For the month of October, operating income was \$59,068.91 and operating expense was \$58,969.05, resulting in a positive balance of \$99.86. Operating income for the year to date is \$722,702.28 and operating expense was \$632,323.91, resulting in a positive balance of \$90,378.37. Cash in the bank on October 31, 2020 was \$162,193.42. Lance reported that 89% of budgeted income has been received and budgeted expenses are at 78% for the year to date.

Current status of parish:

- **In-person worship:** Dean Lightcap reported that the bishop has issued a directive to end in-person worship services through December 6, at which time circumstances will be reviewed. Until then, one possibility for worship would be a parking lot service using a low-transmitter radio signal to broadcast the service to car radios.
- **Saturday mornings:** The sandwich ministry will carry on through this time. Coat donations will be put on hold this year however the Saturday morning teams are distributing blankets that were purchased by the Outreach Committee with donations and matching funds.
- **Christmas:** There will be only a recorded online service for Christmas Eve. It's possible that a Christmas morning in-person service will be held if the moratorium has been lifted by then.
- **Pledge drive:** Ingathering of pledge cards is November 22. The next finance committee meeting is December 8.

Reports from Vestry reps:

- **Invite, Welcome, Connect:** Suzanne has registered to take part in an Evangelism Zoom meeting.
- **Fellowship:** Susan as a list of people who could use food for Thanksgiving Day. There was also discussion on what can be done for those feeling isolated right now. Stephen Ministers and Daughters of the King are two groups that could help keep in contact with people.
- **Adult Education:** Rick reported that Scott Shipman will finish his 4th class on the church and pandemics; Mother Ashley will do one week on Spiritual Practices; Steve Roth will then have five classes on Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- **Outreach:** Gwen reported that the Cathedral sponsored six weeks of food distributions for Operation Food Secure and another two weeks are scheduled. Eight hundred blankets have been received for distribution to Saturday morning sack lunch clients.
- **Building and Grounds:** Chris reported on mitigation systems (costing approximately \$2000) that are being installed on individual fan coil units in the building to help filter the air.

Curate report: Mother Ashley has transitioned to working from home. It also had been earlier announced to the congregation that she has been called to serve at the rector at St. Paul's Church in Manhattan beginning in January of 2021, so will be leaving the Cathedral. She has also been elected to serve on the Diocesan Council of Trustees.

Dean's report: The dean reported that the Cathedral has added a second Zoom account to help avoid conflicts. He also asked the chancellor to report on the Cathedral Proof of Claim for the Boy Scouts of America Chapter 11 Bankruptcy.

The Cathedral filed a Proof of Claim in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Bankruptcy case because it has hosted or sponsored Scout packs or troops. The Claim was filed to preserve the Cathedral's liability insurance coverage for potential claims against the church arising out of BSA activities.

The BSA filed for bankruptcy protection in large part due to thousands of sexual abuse claims by current and former Scouts. The 92,000+ individual abuse claims is much higher than expected and according to attorneys for the Scouts, the actual number of sexual abuses in the BSA system is probably more than any other US institution.

The abuse claims are mainly against the BSA but it is possible for claims to also be made against local scouting councils or churches and other groups that sponsored BSA packs or troops. No claims have been made against the Cathedral but if any are asserted the Cathedral's insurance coverage would be expected to provide a defense and, if necessary, to contribute to a possible settlement.

Executive Session called: Ashley and Connie were excused from this portion of the meeting while staff year-end bonuses were discussed.

Vestry adjourned. The next vestry meeting will be Tuesday, December 15, 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.

— Respectfully submitted by Connie Vosburgh, *Vestry Recorder*