

Grace Episcopal Cathedral Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – June 15, 2021

Present: Rick Backlund, Fr. John Bullock, Suzanne DeWeese, Brenda Kebert, Cynthia Shepherd Langston, Ron Langston, Dean Torey Lightcap, Barbara Nuss, Lance Royer, Chris Shermoen, Dennis Weikel

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

May Minutes: *A motion was made and seconded to accept the May 2021 vestry minutes as presented.* Motion unanimously carried.

Treasurer's report: For the month of May, operating income was \$50,167.21 and operating expense was \$83,904.64, resulting in a negative balance of \$33,737.43. Operating income for the year to date is \$360,668.56, and operating expense was \$333,845.30, resulting in a positive balance of \$26,823.26. Cash in the bank on May 31, 2021 was \$121,064.66.

A payment of \$70,000 for live streaming equipment was paid in May; money for the Pentecost window was received. Also adding to the month's expenses were payments to the Cathedral's \$18,000 February gas bill. Cyndi is looking at renegotiating the contract the Cathedral has with Constellation New Energy, our natural gas company. (The extreme cold in February meant that the company passed along their higher wholesale costs for natural gas along to us.)

Reports from Vestry reps:

- Rick said that Adult Education is taking a two-month summer break. A meeting is planned for August 3 to plan classes for this fall.
- Chris (Building and Grounds) reported on the proposed Blessing Box. There have been past concerns about possible vandalism to such a box. The sorority that would like to sponsor the Blessing Box has said they would be responsible for construction and maintenance of the box and for stocking it one week out of the month. The Cathedral would need to stock it with non-perishable items the remainder of the month. There's also a suggestion that the sorority provide items to give away in conjunction with the Saturday Sack Lunch Ministry as an alternative to a Blessing Box. Chris would need to propose this idea to the group.
- Brenda reported for Children's Ministry Director Kathy Smith, who said, "Sunday School is over for the summer, and I am so appreciative of Sharon McCourt Ostrowski & Kitty Fapp for teaching Zoom classes to the elementary school kids all summer. I taught both Zoom & in person classes to the middle & high school kids. We ended up having a pretty fun year of socially distanced events! Youth will be meeting on Sunday nights throughout the summer- plus we will be doing lots of fun activities including bowling, Worlds of Fun, etc.

We will not have a VBS for the elementary school kids, but rather we will be getting together on Monday nights throughout the summer for a VBS like experience. The one-week version didn't seem to work in family's schedules.

Several family events have been planned- a family picnic next Monday night at Gage Park and a swimming party in August."

- Barbara presented a report on behalf of the Endowment Committee. As of April 30, the Cathedral had \$1,156,239.77 in the Episcopal Church Foundation fund, and with the Topeka Community Foundation, the Evelyn Meade Fund was valued at \$733,547; the Permanent Endowment Fund was at \$334,928; and the Cathedral Fund was at \$50,067. All combined, the funds have increased \$93,411 since the first of the year.

Father Bullock's report: He has just passed his 6-month mark at the Cathedral and has been enjoying his work and the warm welcome he has received. He hopes to get more involved in the committees he is assigned to and will continue his preaching/celebrating schedule on Sundays along with some Adult Education leadership.

Dean's report:

- The General Convention of the Episcopal Church, originally scheduled for this summer, has been rescheduled for Summer 2022.
- The Great Spaces website is live. The Cathedral website is still a work in progress.
- The bishop will be at the Cathedral on June 20 for 6 receptions, 4 confirmations and 3 reaffirmations of faith. She will meet with the vestry at the July meeting.
- In response to an Outreach Committee request, a Dean's Discretionary Fund policy has been sent to the vestry and is attached to these minutes.
- The dean had earlier suggested the vestry consider making a gift to the Bethany Garden project as a sign of partnership and good will. Discussion continued on this suggestion.

A motion was made and seconded to read: "On behalf of the vestry and congregation of Grace Cathedral, we honor the history we have shared with St. Simon's parish by allocating \$2500 from the interest line of the Capital Federal Special accounts to support the construction of the St. Simon's Chapel in the Bethany Place Project." Motion unanimously approved.

With no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer. The next vestry meeting will be Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

— Respectfully submitted by Connie Vosburgh, *Vestry Recorder*