

Meeting of the Trinity Cathedral Vestry  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72202  
August 16, 2011

Present: Harold Joyner, Dean Amy Meaux, Melissa Whitfield, George Morledge, Steve Bethel, Susan Allen, Jim Milwee, Susan Borne', Mary Margaret Wippo, Marcia Wayland, Christopher Keller, Lara Schock,  
Sub Dean Lisa Cory, Jeannie Toombs, Mary Hodges, Christy Poindexter

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Dean Amy Meaux who led the group in an opening prayer. The minutes for June were reviewed, George made a motion to approve which was seconded by Harold. There was no discussion, and the minutes were approved by all.

**New Business update by Dean Meaux:**

Upgrading the bathrooms in Keller House is estimated to cost \$68,150. There is a bequest of a gift of \$50,000 from a parishioner's estate with the balance coming from the Special Gifts account to cover the cost. Christopher made a motion for the Vestry to approve this which was seconded by George. Mary Hodges will meet with the contractor to determine the process and timeframe for the work. All voted in favor of this.

Insights update: Dean Meaux shared that she is in contact with author Wendy Clair Barrie from Seattle WA as a speaker for Insights. It is possible that she will be accompanied by her Dean, The Very Rev. Steve Thomason. Wendy will be the keynote speaker at an interfaith group and Steve could possibly meet with the Vestry and officiate at the following Sunday's service if he accompanies her. The topic for discussion is "Cathedral Ministry post Covid". More to come on this.

Master Plan update: Sarah Bennings presented drawings for the Garth/Treadway Garden as we look at making the walkway more easily accessible and ADA friendly. It is possible that we will lose a few of the trees in the front of the Cathedral and garden.

Children and Youth: Dean Meaux is working with Henry Allen to support a six (6) week program in the Fall. Dean Meaux will lead this group with support from St. Michaels, St Stephens, Trinity and other churches.

Family Minister offer: negotiating on hiring someone soon, possibly to begin the first week in Advent or early next year. A survey was sent out to 120 families targeting 5<sup>th</sup> graders and older to begin an inter-generational family service on Sunday morning in the cafeteria. The frequency and time are being discussed. The goal is to bring families together, begin talking to young children about worshipping and how to participate in the church ministries.

Legacy Society: This is about remembering the Cathedral in your Will. Jack Harvey is the chair and Dean Meaux and George Morledge are the education leads. There is an event scheduled for September 22, 2022, which will require the Vestry's permission to serve wine and beer. This was approved by the Vestry.

Bliss update: in the past, the Vestry has sponsored an event to support Bliss. After much discussion, Christoph recommended a shrimp broil for possibly Spring 2023. He is checking on available dates. More to come on this as Melissa is taking this recommendation to the Bliss Committee.

Micro Enterprise opportunity: A parishioner of St. Margaret's church is offering to donate an extensive inventory of supplies and equipment for making bows to the various communities that are sponsoring Afghan families in Central Arkansas. The goal is to move Afghan women towards self-sufficiency, providing an opportunity for them to come together as they continue to rebuild their lives. The refugee teams will coordinate and train other Afghan women to make and sell bows.

Approval is needed from the Vestry to use one of the upstairs rooms in Higgins House for this purpose. After discussion, Marcia made a motion to approve which was seconded by Melissa. George asked if a special license would be needed for this enterprise and Dean Meaux agreed to check on that. All voted in favor of the proposal.

Tower Bell Proposal: Porter Brownlee submitted a proposal to the Vestry for lessening the noise to the community from the ringing of the Tower Bells on Wednesday night. The current way of doing that is rather cumbersome and unsafe for the bell ringers. He estimates the cost to be approximately \$3,265.00. Marcia made a motion to approve this which was seconded by Susan Borne'. Upon further discussion Christopher made a motion to approve these revisions with sharing the cost up to \$5000. For any excess, Porter can return to the Vestry for further discussion. The Tower Bells have \$5,871 in their checking account. Marcy seconded this and it was approved by all.

Missioner for Community Engagement: Dean Meaux has identified a need for this position at the Cathedral as we have noticed a loss of traction in some of our ministries due to the impact of Covid 19 over the past two years. She has identified and interviewed a potential candidate who understands the funding challenges. Some of the functions of this role include (1) help Dean Meaux to establish a theological and ethical grounding of our ministries, (2) help to give a vision to and with the organization of programs such as Insights and other ministries, (3) review best practices on how to engage the community in our ministries and (4) assists with the Master Plan and the Mathew 25 Committee.

It is possible we could hire this person on an interim basis as there is funding through the end of year 2022. Other sources of funding will have to be generated for 2023

Another option is to hire a Curate who could do this job and share three Sundays a month with other churches. There was discussion on whether these functions are what are expected for a Curate's role.

Mary Hodges shared that in the past, Bliss fundraising paid for an individual's salary. More discussion to come on this.

To be transparent, and based on parishioners' feedback, it was decided to share updates from the Vestry meetings with the parishioners.

Amy reminded the Vestry members to complete the Praesidium Academy training.

**Sub Dean Cory's update:** Reverend Cory made us aware of the time commitment when planning a funeral. Funerals in the Episcopal community presents many challenges and a need for an understanding of the Episcopal funeral traditions for those unfamiliar with our traditions. There are many phone calls, preparation and planning that goes into a funeral. She shared that the next Sacred Ground Group training will begin in mid-September. This is a small group video-based curriculum session. The previous groups were very successful, and she encouraged the Vestry to attend. She also shared an August 27, 2022, Pastoral Care Training schedule for the many pastoral care opportunities available.

**ECEP update:** Christy shared that on Wednesday August 24, 2022, there will be a conflict resolution training for the ECEP staff and a spaghetti lunch on Sunday after the 10:30 worship. ECEP has received two additional grants totaling \$407,500 but have not received the funds yet. One grant is for the expansion of the classrooms. The garden area will be restructured with some of the grant money and will be designated as an outdoor classroom. A review of the relationship with ECEP and the Cathedral revealed the need for Bylaws and an operational agreement to be created. Clark Tucker, attorney is assisting Dean Meaux with this. It is hoped that she will have a draft to present at the September's Vestry meeting.

**Junior Warden's report:** Mary Margaret reported that a new HVAC unit is needed for Mitchell House at a cost of \$9,600. New LED lighting is estimated to cost \$5,900. Dean's Hall is almost finished. They are awaiting the carpet installation and hopefully can return to this space next week. The city will not do the plumbing repairs to Mitchell House as they said it is the Cathedral's responsibility. Mary Hodges has contacted Arrow Plumbing who will come next Monday to do the dye test. The major plumbing project has been delayed, will be another two to three (2-3) years to decide on this project. One wall of Chancellor's Hall will be painted next Monday and the youth are ready to move in. We are working on obtaining grant funding to replace the lift in the Cathedral. Melissa Whitfield will assist with the writing of the grant.

**Finance update:** Grant submitted an electronic report. ECEP operational accounts are healthy with strong cash on hand. ECEP was awarded two grants in June totaling \$177,500 and two grants in July totaling \$230,000. These grants have designated purposes. Cathedral: in the July report, there is an entry for unrealized losses with our investments. Again, this is a snap shot and reported quarterly. We have recovered somewhat since the market lows of June. For operating funds, we had a loss of \$37,408 in June and a loss of \$41,471 in July. For year-to-date amounts, we are still operating at a positive \$53,012 in June and \$36,657 (taking out the unrealized losses for investments) in July. Overall, our cash balances are still healthy but will be something to watch over the next couple of months. We are reaching out to parishioners with a mid-year report on their pledges, and

hopefully that might spur some who are behind to catch up. George made a motion to accept the Finance report as submitted. This was seconded by Steve, and all voted in favor.

The meeting concluded at 6:56 pm followed by a closing prayer by Sub-Dean Cory.

Next Meetings:

Finance Committee: September 15, 2022, at 4:15pm

Executive Committee: September 15, 2022, at 4:45pm

Vestry Meeting: September 20, 2022, at 5:30pm

Respectfully Submitted.

Melonese Clarke

Clerk