

Meeting of the Trinity Cathedral Vestry  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
November 15, 2022

Present: Susan Allen, George Morledge, John Milwee, Lara Schock, Marcia Wayland, Grant Wallace, Susan Mehlburger, Susan Borne', Melissa Whitfield, Steve Bethel, Mary Margaret Wippo, and Sarah Henry.

Staff: Dean Amy Meaux , Rev Lisa Corry, Mary Hodges, Christy Poindexter and Jeanie Toombs.

We began the meeting with Dean Amy sharing an opportunity she was most grateful for. Each member of the Vestry and staff participated by stating what they were most grateful for.

The meeting was officially called to order at 5:50p.m. by Melissa Whitfield. After a review of the minutes, a motion to approve was made by Grant Wallace and seconded by George Morledge. There were no edits and the minutes were approved by all.

**Dean's Report was jointly presented by Chief Warden Melissa Whitfield and Dean Amy Meaux:**

There were 140 congregants in attendance for Rev. Stuart Hoke's sermon on Remembrance Sunday November 13, 2022.

Master Plan update, accessibility: Dean Meaux will meet with Sarah Bennings next week to discuss the design of the ramp and submission for bids.

It was reported that the new lift is on its way to the Cathedral, we are hoping for installation to begin very soon after arrival.

Housing for the Afghan Noorstani family remains a challenge. Marty Thomas continues to work diligently on this issue.

The toilets in Mitchell House are now in working condition.

Stewardship Campaign: To date we have received \$879,160 in pledges towards our goal of \$1.4734 mil. Outstanding pledges total \$528,164. Jack Dowling will create a call list for the Vestry members to assist in making calls 1<sup>st</sup> week in December 2022.

Annual Meeting: The off going Vestry members met to review the slate of candidates who will be voted on to replace them on the Vestry. The goal is to have elections of five new Vestry members to present at the January 2023 annual meeting.

Susan Allen and Dean Amy met to review the bylaws and committee structures. They would like to see a process and structure that is transparent for all and include a plan in place for

succession planning. Their goal is to have a document ready for review at the December Vestry meeting.

Bliss update: The event raised \$140,000. After expenses, there was a net of \$120,000. The Dean and the Bliss Committee met to discuss having a Bliss Dispersal Committee that would be charged with looking at other best practice programs including a look at St. Mark's model for fundraising. Another discussion piece was a structure where people could contribute to the Bliss Fund throughout the year. More to come on this.

Matthew 25 Committee update: The committee is charged with creating a Needs Assessment Proposal for new programs which they will present to the Vestry at its January 2023 meeting.

**Sub-Dean's report, Rev Lisa Corry:**

Rev. Corry spoke on a race relation initiative in Little Rock. Approximately 50 spiritual and civic leaders attended a luncheon to share their thoughts and statistics on race in Arkansas. The goal of this initiative is to further elevate race relations to a spiritual aspect and not only as a social issue. Lisa attended a Race Conference from Atlanta by zoom on who we are, our views on religion, race and relationships. Rev. Corry felt good on where Trinity is.

She offered us some things to ponder about: what does it mean to be white and the advantages of being white in America?

At a recent Clergy Conference, stress was a topic of discussion. 10 questions were given ranging on a scale of mild, mildly, severe. Most priests ranged from mildly to severely stressed. Her challenge to us: become involved in pastoral care by visiting people who are homebound. If interested, please contact her.

**Finance update by Grant Wallace:**

ECEP has a good cash on hand balance mainly from grants, refunds and contributions. Operations are down this month due not having as many students. Income vs. expenses are net \$10,000. A good month.

The Cathedral had a normal month. Cash on hand \$352,000 as we go into the remaining month. This allows us to budget appropriately for next year.

A recommendation from the Executive and Finance Committee is to look at higher yielding income accounts as rates and interests are increasing. Jeanie agreed to follow up on this. George Morledge made a motion at approve the Finance report which was seconded by Steve Bethel. All voted in favor.

**New Business by Dean Amy:**

Dean Amy reminded us that Jeannie is retiring at the end of January, and she (Dean Amy) is reviewing the job description. The position will be posted nationally tomorrow.

As we are in the middle of Stewardship campaign, Dean Amy brought forth for discussion a suggestion to allow Jack Dowling to see the "Giving Screen" in Realm. Pledge amounts are attached to the names of congregants on this screen. Currently no one except Jeanie has access to this information as this is very private and confidential information.

Jack would provide us with a script to use as we make more direct appeal to members to increase their pledge or to make a pledge. There was much discussion on the pros and cons of this with some members not being comfortable asking another parishioner to increase his/her pledge. Grant, Susan and Melissa offered comments on the benefits of this proposal.

If approved, this would warrant a change in Jack's job description to include this new role and a title change. Dean Amy will revise the job description to reflect the new role and title for review. No decision was made on this as it warrants more discussion.

**ECEP Update:**

Christy shared photos of the new playground which will serve as an outdoor nature classroom. The playground equipment which is 25 years old will be removed and ground subdivided into toddler spaces.

**Junior Warden Mary Margaret Wippo update:**

Dean's hall and the Clergy Vesting room is ready, but we are waiting for the installation of the lift. It is expected to arrive within the next 5-8 days and hopefully installation will be completed by Christmas.

Painting of the Archive Vault is completed, and new lights are installed.

Toilets are working in Mitchell House, concrete work to be cleaned and finished around the house.

A section of the floor in the kitchen is buckling and will need to be replaced.

Solar lights for illumination of entry to the Cathedral are to be placed along the Cathedral steps as a safety measure especially for night services.

The meeting concluded at 6:45p.m. following a closing prayer by Rev. Corry.

**Next Meetings:**

Finance Committee: Thursday December 8 at 4:15 p.m.

Executive Committee: Thursday December 8 at 4:45 p.m.

Vestry Meeting: Tuesday December 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Melonese Clarke  
Clerk.