

Meeting of the Trinity Cathedral Vestry
Little Rock, Arkansas
October 18, 2022

Present: George Morledge, Susan Allen, Susan Borne', Marcia Wayland, Melissa Whitfield, Christoph Keller, Mary Margaret Wippo, Lara Schock, Dean Amy Meaux, John Milwee, Sarah Henry,
Staff: Mary Hodges, Jeanie Toombs, Christy Poindexter and Rev Lisa Corry.
Guests: Dr. Brooks Wolf and Jerry Shurgar.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Dean Meaux who led the group in an opening prayer. The minutes were reviewed, and Melissa asked for a motion of approval. George Morledge motioned to approve them and was seconded by Susan Borne'.

Mathew 25 Committee presentation:

Jerry Shurgar and Brooks Wolf gave a presentation on the history, mission and funding of the Mathew 25 Committee Outreach programs for Trinity Cathedral. The three outreach programs under this umbrella are (1) Saint Francis House, (2) The Dorcas House and (3) Stewpot which feeds the hungry and homeless. For the first 2 years of the committee, there were no funds allocated to this mission. In years 2018 and 2020, the committee received a total of \$85,000 from the Bliss events. It appears that .0028% of the Cathedral's annual budget is allocated to Outreach.

Their presentation included a comparison of the financial commitment of other churches in the surrounding areas which appears to be significantly higher than Trinity's. The concerns Jerry and Brooks have for the Vestry are related to Trinity's culture of Outreach and its fulfillment of the gospel. They requested that the Vestry consider Outreach to be a line item of 5% of the annual budget and that 100% of the proceeds from this year's Bliss be allocated to Outreach. Another suggestion is making a direct appeal to the parishioners for financial support for Outreach programs. (Refer to handout).

Dean's Report was jointly presented by Dean Amy and the Chief Warden Melissa Whitfield

Master plan update: Melissa reported that the renovation is on hold until funds are received. There is a delay in accessing the bequest of funds from a parishioner's estate that has resulted in this pause.

Replacing the lift in Dean's hallway will cost \$27,000. An installment of \$13,000 has been made towards the replacement. We are hopeful that the work will be completed by Christmas 2022.

Insights: Dean Amy stated that she and Becky Tucker are sending a submission packet to Sue Monk Kidd for an Insights speaking engagement on April 22, 2023.

Remembrance Sunday: Rev. Stuart Hoke will be the preacher at our Remembrance Day Evening service on November 13, 2022.

Afghan family: The housing lease for the Noorstani family is now on a month-to-month basis. There is a group working on a short-term plan for this family.

Preparing for Trinity's Annual meeting and Diocesan Convention:

- There are 5 Vestry members who will be rotating off in December. We will begin recruiting for their replacement to be in place by January 2023, in time for the Annual Meeting.
- There is a need for two members from the congregation to assist with recruiting for deputies to the Diocesan Convention. Mary Margaret Wippo has volunteered to assist.
- Review of the Bylaws and Committee membership: Dean Amy encouraged the Vestry to have a vision for the ministry of the Cathedral. This would include the Vestry reviewing the processes for working on committees and to identify those actions that add value to our ministry. The Vestry should review all bylaws, create a structure for committees, identify those that need to be strengthened and encouraged; and to create a process for succession planning. Susan Allen volunteered to assist with this process. There is a need for another volunteer.

Dean Amy shared with us a meeting she had with Paul Atkins from Canvas, a ministry of the United Methodist Church, on providing volunteer help to the homeless. A worshiping service is scheduled for Monday October 24, 2022, which will include a dinner that is sponsored by Trinity Cathedral. The cost of the dinner, \$475 will be funded from the Dean's Discretionary fund. Hours for volunteering is from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm and is open to all ages.

Dean Amy reported on a visit she had with Rev. Truman Tolefree, Pastor of Bethel AME that included a tour of the building. He donated to this year's Bliss Campaign.

Work is ongoing for the Covenant Renewal at Bethel later this year.

Sub-Dean's Report: Rev. Cannon Dr. Lisa Corry

Rev Lisa tied her comments back to the Vestry Retreat agenda item relating to our roles in ministries and mission at Trinity Cathedral. The focus is on sustaining smaller ministries. She suggested the Vestry look at how some of these ministries i.e., alter guild, flower ministries are sustained.

Lisa updated us on the Bishop's Search Committee Listening Sessions which are structured to offer the diocese an opportunity to give their input into the selection of the next Bishop of Arkansas. Some of these sessions are by zoom and others are in person. There is one session at Trinity Cathedral on November 7, 2022, which is geared towards the youth of our diocese. Other sessions in Little Rock are at St. Margaret's, St. Mark's and Christ Episcopal churches. This is a Statewide opportunity. (Refer to hand out for other locations throughout the State).

ECEP Special Report: Marcia Wayland

Following DHS visit relating to the ECEP program this summer, one of the action items was for ECEP leadership to survey other similar programs for best practice initiatives. Marcia presented this report at the October Vestry Meeting.

The scope was not to look at the day-to-day operations of the program but rather to look at the bigger picture i.e., the Governance of the program. They reached out to 10 programs and were able to speak to 8 of them. Trinity's ECEP program operates under Trinity's 501 C3 umbrella and follows the ACPACP Standards of operation (Arkansas Children's Program Administrator Credential). Therefore, it does not need to seek the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) certification. ECEP pays more to the church than other programs interviewed. Some programs have very active boards and a recommendation for Trinity's ECEP is to restructure its board. Other immediate recommendations include:

- Have a new written operating agreement between Trinity and ECEP
- Restructure the board and fill it with six members each serving three-year terms with staggered dates for their terms. It was recommended that none of the board members be current parents of ECEP students, and one board member be a vestry liaison
- The ECEP board should start by writing bylaws which are to be approved by the Vestry
- Restart the OPT (Organization for Parents and Teachers) program. (Refer to handout).

Next step: Motion to approve the recommendation of a draft operating agreement between ECEP and Trinity to include the structure of the board. This motion was made by Christy Poindexter and seconded by Marcia Wayland. All were in favor. The Vestry thanked Marcia for the hard work she did on this action item.

Junior Warden's Update: Mary Margaret Wippo

There is a new HVAC unit in Mitchell House, but the plumbing is still being worked on. American Leak Detectors has determined that the sewer lines are going towards Spring Street. Not knowing where the lines were going has been a major issue for some time.

Dean's Hall is almost completed including the paint work. We passed the Fire Marshall's inspection today, but the celebration of the reopening is delayed until the lift is completely installed. We are hoping for a Christmas completion.

Finance Report: Written report submitted by Grant Wallace

Cathedral: Grant indicated that we had a normal month regarding income, and we are at 81% of our budgeted pledges/plate/contributions income nine months into the year. Expenses are in line with normal operations and are at 70% of total budget.

We are at a healthy \$373,069 cash on hand balance at the end of September. The investment/endowments section has been moved from the snapshot on the first page of the financial report to the last page of the packet. In spite of the market, our balances remain ok.

ECEP: This was another typical month operationally for the program. More expenses will be coming out of the grant funding while it is available. There is currently \$269,796 grant funding available.

Note: The Stewardship Campaign has begun, and we (Vestry) are encouraged to turn in our pledge cards early and to encourage others to do so. Letters will be sent to parishioners this week.

Preliminary Bliss Report: the silent auction has exceeded expectations to date.

The meeting concluded at 6:50 pm after a presentation to Dean Amy of personal Eucharist Kit for home or hospital visits. Sub-Dean Lisa let the group in a closing prayer.

Next Meetings:

Finance committee: Thursday November 10 at 4:15 pm
Executive Committee: Thursday November 10 at 4:45pm
Vestry Meeting: Tuesday November 15 at 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Melonese Clarke
Clerk