

**St. John's Cathedral
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Meeting via Zoom
February 18, 2021**

6:00 p.m. – Vestry Meeting begins

Members Present via Zoom Conference call

Michael Corrigan, Jane Lester, John Sefton, Claude Moulton, Martha Greene, Joe Kincart, Laura Lane, Lisa McKenna, Donna Walker Bell, Glenn Guiler, Patrick Kimball Barbara Fiser.

Quorum:

Yes

Chancellor

Steve Busey

Clergy and Staff Present

Dean Kate, Bob Dannals, Debbie Johnson, Kitty Cash

Treasurer

Charles Winney

Devotion

Jayne Hill gave the devotion.

Moment of Gratitude

Dean Sandra for her wonderful pastoral care during this time of pandemic when so many people are appreciative of her calls.

Robert Lee for his consideration for the Cathedral as a site for Fresh Ministries

Thank you to all the previous Vestry Members who stepped down after their term. They contributed greatly in service to the Cathedral.

Approval of Minutes for January 21, 2021

Donna Walker Bell moved to accept the minutes, Michael Corrigan seconded and with no opposition the minutes were approved unanimously.

Welcome to New Vestry Members

Donna Walker Bell who will liaison to the Parish Life Counsel, Glenn Guiler who will be liaison to the Stewardship and Development Committee, Patrick Kimball who will be liaison to Worship, Music and Arts Council and Barbara Fiser who will be liaison to Spirituality and Formation Council.

Episcopal School of Jacksonville Articles of Incorporation Changes

Steve Busey briefly explained the changes being made to the Articles and why the Vestry needs to approve the changes. The school is a ministry of the Cathedral. The Vestry are the wardens of the school. The Vestry elects all the Trustees. The articles require that there be 4 members of the Cathedral at all times and this has been difficult to maintain. The school has asked the Cathedral to reduce from 4 to 2 members. The Dean suggested the Cathedral request the children of the Dean and any clergy, limited to 4 children, be able to attend the school tuition free. The red line articles have been circulated to all Vestry Members. John Sefton moved to accept the amended and restated Articles of Incorporation for the Episcopal School of Jacksonville, the motion was seconded by Jane Lester. With no further discussion, all voting members of the Vestry present, with a show of hands voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Cathedral Governance Issues – Bob Dannals

Currently the Vestry is elected by the members of the Cathedral. The nominating committee selects 8 people for the consideration to be elected for 4 positions from members sent to them by the congregation, so the congregation still has genuine input as to their Vestry members. Another equally normative style of governance is to nominate the exact number of Vestry needed and the group would be elected as a slate instead of an individual basis. The parish is still very involved as the parish brings the persons to be nominated to the nominating committee to consider. Of benefit is the nominating committee is close to the

heart and soul of the church and the blending of age, gender and skill set for those nominated can be considered. Also of benefit is the people elected are usually the best known and this allows candidates with the best skill set are not eliminated. And also of benefit is if someone is not elected, feelings are sometimes hurt and they will not consider running again. Other churches use a set of principles to guide the Nominating Committee in their selection process. Bylaws can be changed by the Vestry by a three quarter majority or by the Cathedral voting during the annual meeting and it could pass by a simple majority. Donna mentioned an instance in the past where names were pulled from a hat versus the current procedure in place. Donna asked Bob what other congregations had felt about the change. Bob said the other congregations were very receptive due to the ability to select to a certain needed skill set. One thing to consider is that after 3 slate elections the nominating committee will not be made up of elected members who were not elected via the slate method. Steve Busey agreed with the idea of the slate as presented by the nominating committee. The biggest issue he sees is if the Vestry makes the change by super majority or the change is made by the congregation voting for the change. Steve suggested a process be circulated to the congregation for by-in from the congregation prior to deciding whether to consider the change. Jayne Hill suggested thinking through the process and possibly change the forming of the nominating committee. Bob suggested the congregation make the decision instead of the decision being made by the Vestry. John Sefton suggested adding a clause that the change could be revisited in 3 or 4 years to come to vote up or down the change. He did mention it was very difficult to get someone of color or from someone with a young family to run at all. Kate stated she felt allowing the congregation make the decision was wise. Glenn told the group about his experience with being nominated when he was new and was not elected. But would like to see the nominating committee make a more in-depth review of the candidates to determine all of their skill set and commitment to the position on the Vestry. Claude was nominated 2 times before being elected the 3rd time. He therefore made an effort to get to know more people which he found to be a benefit. If the by-laws are changed the change does not go into effect for another year so there is a lot of time for consideration after the vote.

Executive Committee Resolution

Claude amended the resolution as presented. His changes were to unbudgeted expenditures from \$5,000 to \$1,000 and not exceeding \$5,000 in the aggregate. The ability to move from one budget to another the amount from \$5,000 to \$1,000 and not to exceed \$5,000 in the aggregate. He added the provisions should be reported to the Vestry as soon as the next meeting.

Financial Update

Debbie presented the most recent financial statements. The revenue vs expenses were very good for the month of January. This was mostly in due to a positive variance due to the du Pont Fund creating a matching donation opportunity which the Cathedral called the 25 days to 25K. The donations had to be made on-line and the congregation donated more than the \$25,000 so the du Pont fund will be making the donation of \$25,000 to the Cathedral. She asked anyone to contact her directly if anyone had any questions. The Finance Committee is researching how much of the access cash left at the end of the 2020 year end to be put in the Saint's fund and how much to leave as cash.

Kate reported Pledge Income Report increased by \$50,000 since the 2021 budget was approved and today. Kate is suggesting another priest be hired for Pastoral Care for hospital visits. Gee Alexander is a retired priest living in Jacksonville who is willing to come to work for the Cathedral for a nominal amount and he does not require healthcare of benefits because he is retired. Kate asked the Vestry to approve the expense to have Gee come on staff for \$22,000 for the remainder of 2021. Bob Dannals says he is highly skilled at Pastoral Care at the bedside. Claude moved to approve the change to the budget for the expenditure. Jane Lester seconded the motion and with a show of hands of those in attendance, the motion passed unanimously.

Council Reports

Outreach: Laura Lane was pleased to welcome Joe Kincart to the Council. There is a Blood Drive this Sunday. The Prayer Shawl ministry has begun, please see the website for details. The men's underwear drive for Sulzbacher was a success. April 18 – 25th is the next Family Promise host week. Laura asked Kate to attend an upcoming meeting to explain how Family Promise will be impacted by the UF Architectural project. The expenditure amount will decrease do to hosting on site instead of in a hotel. Joe is working with Fresh Ministries to create opportunities for outreach and ministries with them.

Formation: Barbara attended the first meeting and is getting on board with the many ministries they have upcoming.

Parish Life: Donna will attend the meeting this Sunday afternoon and will bring an update for the next meeting. Now that the next chapter will unfold for 2021. Bob Dannals will also be connected to the council. He thanked them for the ways they were able to make 2020 meaningful to the congregation virtually.

Properties: Lisa reported on the water intrusion progress. The windows have been sealed and the bell tower will be next to be sealed. Lisa was pleased to announce the cost of the sealing is not as extensive as anticipated. The flat roof coating is going on soon. Jayne reported she met with Martha Cox to share her transition notes.

WMA: A lot of the meeting time is spent with the actual logistics of the moving pieces of services such as flowers, ushers, etc. One of the items being researched is how the virtual service will be handled going forward. Jane also added the WMA continues to work on the addition of a votive candle stand.

Pastoral Care: Michael noted the Note Bird is up and running and ready for all Clergy to begin noting their visits. Deacon Sandra is conducting Diocesan training for Lay Eucharistic training in person and online.

Dean's Report

Kate reported she continues to work with UF School of Architecture to bring their program to be housed at the Cathedral. The term sheet is being developed. John Sefton is meeting with Dean Bosworth next week and it is contingent on some fund raising. The concept that is most important for is to kindly discuss the sharing of spaces. It is a spiritual challenge for us to maintain the beautiful gem we have been given and also on a practical sense of raising revenue from the space to continue the financial health of the Cathedral. Laura suggested framing the changes as it is not an either/or proposition but how to maintain our space. She also suggested perhaps running a charrette for the congregation to be able to have a feeling of inclusion in the decisions affecting them. Jane Lester asked whether the space would be renovated prior to the space being leased or after the tenant is determined. Kate agreed these are all these details will be worked through.

Kate hopes all who can attend the CEEP Conference.

Bob asked anyone that can join the CEEP. Bob gave information on the Right Rev. Henry Parsley who will lead the Vestry retreat on May 22nd is a seasoned Bishop and will be pastoral in nature and look at how the pandemic has affected the congregation and how we will proceed for the next 6 months. The October retreat on Friday the 15th and 16th. The Friday will be a 90 minute visit with Dr. John Littleford and the 16th will be all day.

Next Meeting

Thursday March 18, 2021.

Closing Prayer

Minutes submitted by Kitty Cash.