

Vestry Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2023
6:00 p.m.
St John's Cathedral

Call to Order- 6 pm

Opening Devotion- Lloyd Lewis gave a reflection on Zechariah that God is with us in all moments.

Members Present: John Bass, Donna Walker Bell, Chris Collinsworth, Barbara Fiser, Glenn Guiler, Patrick Kimball, Lloyd Lewis, Lisa McKenna, Claude Moulton, John Sefton

Members Absent- Paige Hakimian, Will Ketchum, Meg Sacks

Others Present- Charles Winney, Treasurer

Clergy and Staff Present- Dean Kate Moorehead Carroll, The Rev. Mark Anderson, Megan Cochran, Patricia Moore

Quorum- Yes

Moment of Gratitude- Donna Walker Bell expressed gratitude to Lewis Hunt for bringing communion two times after she had surgery. Lisa McKenna is grateful for Paul Calewarts jumping right in and doing a fantastic job. All members want to thank Liesl Gavronsky Howsare for years of service. Patrick Kimball expressed gratitude to Tim Tuller for bringing in new people through the work he does with the choir and music events.

Approval of Minutes- Upon review of the April 20, 2023 meeting minutes, hearing no amendments to be made, Chris Collinsworth moved to approve, and Barbara Fiser seconded. The minutes were approved by all as presented.

Financial Report- We are working hard to onboard GuideServe. They will have live financial data by 6/1/23, payroll by 6/15/23 and full financial data for the year by 7/1/23. We expect to continue to use Paycom for payroll, with GuideServe handling reporting. Kate noted that once we are onboard, we can use a portal to get reports anytime. Patricia Moore has stepped up beyond her duties as Bookkeeper to help and has produced a Revenue/Expense report for January 1, 2023 through April 30, 2023 that she reviewed with the members. Kate explained the Dot West fund covers various projects beyond music and includes allowing us to pay the bookstore manager. Dot West ran the diocesan bookstore for many years and her trustees believe it would honor Dot to support the bookstore with the fund.

The Cathedral School Bylaw Request- Mark explained that the major changes relate to how the board functions in relationship with the church and particularly between the dean and the head of school. Kate will be able to name a clergy person to sit on the board in her place. In this case, the change will allow Mark to participate on the board. These recommendations come from guidance sought from other schools, churches and attorneys. Only the vestry can change the bylaws. The changes also add an evaluation process for the head of school. The need for a consistent rubric was brought up and Mark asked Chris Collinsworth to consult on that rubric. Donna Walker Bell moved to approve the bylaw changes and John Sefton seconded. The changes were approved unanimously.

Cathedral District Jax Nominee – After members reviewed the bio of The Rev. Benjamin Tandy, Claude Moulton motioned to approve the nominee and Lloyd Lewis seconded. All voted to approve The Rev. Tandy for the Cathedral District-Jax board of directors.

Vestry Retreat- Dean Kate expressed we are at a place where we can envision our future and get granular about objectives and vision. The 2023 slate of nominees are invited as well.

Council Reports

Worship, Music and Arts- First Coast Wind Symphony's annual program attendance was over 300 people. Patrick Kimball credits this attendance to promotional work. Taliaferro Art was open for Art Walk for the first time with not only parishioners attending, but 15-20 attendees who are not from the cathedral. Our art programs are becoming more popular. The Laird exhibit opening was fantastic. The next exhibit will feature a collaboration between Jacque Huber and Jay Wright. After the Trio Recital on Sunday 5/21/23, there will be a break for the summer then music events will start back up in September. Trying to make sure all programs are coordinated to not conflict with other programs. The council may begin meeting in advance of liturgical seasons rather than monthly to be more efficient and effective. We are implementing a more consistent policy regarding security and may hire a security company rather than police officers for events. Anyone who uses our space, whether for profit or pro bono, will be required to pay for security officer depending on time of day and size of the group. Patrick Kimball urged us to have security anytime we open our doors to the public.

Parish Engagement- Last two meetings have had attendance conflicts, but they will meet soon to tidy the strings on 4th of July plans.

Development- The Legacy Society dinner was a great success. We need to highlight legacy giving regularly, inviting parishioners to consider what happens when we die and how we want to keep giving. Another dinner has been planned and legacy giving will be highlighted once a quarter in communications. Fundraising for water intrusion costs has paused until we can take care of chiller and backflow preventer. Everything is coming together for the pledge drive in the fall and a logo has been developed. Plans include gatherings in people's homes with a focus on personal and spiritual homes.

Properties- Water chillers are the current top priority. Paul Calewarts is gathering information on the feasibility of repair or replacement. Backflow preventers must be tested yearly. The cooling medium needs to be replaced and we are gathering scope of work bids. Safety and Security Task Force is moving forward and meeting at the end of May or early June. Water intrusion work is on hold.

Formation- The next Cathedral Quarterly theme will be coordinated with the pledge drive theme. Joe O'Shields and the Rev Linda Privitera will lead a 5 week class again. Conversations with Scripture will start back up in Sept. There will be no Quiet Garden Mornings over the summer.

Senior Warden Report- We should have a copy of the UF lease in a matter of weeks. There will be a diocesan convention Saturday September 30, 2023.

Subdean's Report- Staffing updates- Paul Calewarts is coming on as permanent member of the staff. We are very fortunate to have him with us. Liesl Gavronsky Howsare is transitioning over to St. Mary's Food Pantry. Mark, Pam Searcy and Nancy Purcell are working to develop a plan to cover our communication and hospitality needs. Kate and Mark will host a summer series called Community Conversations. People with expertise will engage in conversation with Mark or Dean Kate grounded in an ethical and respectful framework. A parish retreat in will be held September and will be the first in a long time. The parish needs to get away and have fun together. It will be good to have a day and half to get to know each other since we often live so far apart, coming from all over the county and beyond. This past school year we increased the frequency of chapels with the Cathedral School to build up that relationship. They had a precious graduation ceremony here.

Dean's Report- We will confirm and receive approximately seventeen people on Pentecost. One woman will be baptized at 8 am and confirmed at 10 am. People want a safe, affirming and loving community and are coming to us because that is what we offer. Dean Kate and Ginny Myrick authored an Emory Law School white paper on "Religion, Property Law, and the Crisis of Houses of Worship" to hopefully help other urban churches. We need to ask in prayer where does God want us to go to serve this city and this state in the next three years.

Closing Prayer