



Vestry Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2025
6:00 p.m.
St. John's Cathedral

Call to Order: 6 pm

Members Present: John Bass, Martha Cox, John Erstling, Glenn Guiler, Paige Hakimian, Patrick Kimball, Lisa McKenna, Laura Jane Pittman, Louis Russo, Adam Smith

Members Absent: Donna Walker Bell, Lewis Hunt

Others Present: Steve Busey, Chancellor; John Sefton, Subchancellor

Clergy and Staff Present: Dean Kate Moorehead Carroll, Rev. Mark Anderson, Marissa Lingaitis

Quorum: Yes

Opening Devotion: Patrick Kimball

Moment of Gratitude: Members expressed gratitude for the stations of the cross stands, for help of staff to make the open-house work so seamlessly, the Center for Wellbeing taskforce, Linda and Tom O'Dell for their welcome ministry, Bonnie Hardman for her willingness to support parish engagement, and for Hud Berry for taking the time to sit with and support the cancer support groups.

Approval of Minutes: After review of the February minutes, Patrick Kimball moved to approve the minutes as presented, Martha Cox seconded, and all present voted to approve the minutes.

Financial Report: Shane Williams provided the financial report, covering the end of 2024 through February 28, 2025. Revenue is strong. The Finance Committee elected not to make scheduled yearly transfers from interest bearing accounts to operations because while on paper the parish ended the year at a deficit, the reality is there is sufficient cash in the operating account to cover everything due to the unexpected Plummer Foundation grant in 2024.

Approve Acceptance of Sabbatical Donations – In February the Vestry tabled a motion to accept \$20,000 in funds that would allow Dean Kate to take a sabbatical this summer. Rev. Tom O'Dell has agreed to work full time for the parish while Kate is on Sabbatical. For transparency, Martha Cox wanted members to vote on an agenda item. Cox moved to untable the vote and all members present voted to approve accepting the funds.

Allocation of additional \$333k from Aging True Settlement- Mark reported that of the funds received as part of the nursing home sale, \$366,666 remain unallocated. What the Finance Committee is recommending is twofold: 1. That we again tithe 10% of the \$333,333 nursing home sale that we received in January 2025, setting aside \$33,000 to be used for charitable purposes. 2. Take the additional \$333,333 and place it in the newly formed Plummer Endowment to support the Cathedral's long-term financial sustainability. The hope is to one day have \$16 million in endowments to fully support the facilities and properties, so that pledges and non-pledge giving can go entirely to programming and staff. Shane Williams moved to approve this allocation of funds, Adam Smith seconded and all present voted to approve the allocation.

- **RESOLVED,** \$33,333 be set aside as a tithe (10%) on the \$333,333 the Cathedral received in January 2025 from the nursing home sale and the remaining \$333,333 be placed into the newly created Plummer Endowment to support the Cathedral's long-term financial sustainability.

Catholic Charities- Director of development Pam Searcy took a training so that the cathedral could qualify for certain grants from the duPont Fund. As a result, the cathedral was able to get a matching grant from duPont to raise a total of \$88k for Lutheran Social Services refugee resettlement programs. Catholic Charities is the other nonprofit in the area who provides resettlement assistance, but they do not qualify for the same matching grant because none of their staff had received the training. As a loophole, they asked the Cathedral to be a pass through for the matching grant from duPont. We are not asking episcopal churches or parishioners to raise these funds, rather, area catholic churches will collect the funds, send them to us, and we will pass them to Catholic Charities with the matching grant. Dean Kate describes it as “Christians getting along, which is a good thing!”

Digital Revenue - Dean Kate has a website on Substack that allows subscribers to receive content free but also allows them to pay a subscription for greater access. While employed with the cathedral, the proceeds from the subscription revenue will go to the cathedral, but once she retires, the proceeds will become income. John Sefton is working with an intellectual property attorney to draft a contract spelling this out for transparency.

Council Reports

Formation: Adam Smith reported that virtual formation has 37 participants meeting in groups. EfM is changing its format for the 25/26 year. The Quarterly theme is *Wrestle*. The Bookstore reports a significant increase in engagement. The Eaglet has been canceled and the monthly children’s eucharist has shifted to Cummings Chapel.

Outreach: Glenn Guiler reported they are very busy and well organized. The calendar is set through January 2026. Current projects are providing lunches for Church without Walls, meals for Family Promise Host Week and collecting T-shirts for ReThreaded. Hunger fight will be in May.

Parish Engagement: Laura Jane Pitman reported that the council is reorganizing itself to encourage engagement in the life of the parish and to support the number of groups that fall under its umbrella. They are looking for a chair and she will act as chair until someone else is found.

Pastoral Care: No report as Lewis Hunt was away on vacation.

Properties: Patrick Kimball and Lisa McKenna provided updates on projects including HVAC automation and roofing.

Stewardship and Development: John Erstling reported that \$52k was raised for Lutheran Social Services, bringing the total to \$86k after the matching grant. Upcoming stewardship campaign theme will be The Body Blessed. They are working to develop materials and are recruiting a few families to be the chairs and faces of the campaign. Another focus is on legacy giving and encouraging parishioners to leave a legacy gift. Our properties endowments are currently only \$9 million but we need \$16 million to provide maintenance and preservation of the campus.

Worship, Music and Arts: No report as Donna Walker Bell is on vacation.

Senior Warden’s Report: Martha Cox will send out information to share from EPN. The highlight was listening to Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe talk about strengthening churches and the national church from the ground level. John Sefton has asked the members to vote to provide \$25k to CDJ for due diligence. Martha Cox motioned to approve the advance and Louis Russo seconded. All present voted to approve.

- **Resolved** that the Church provide an advance to Cathedral District Jax to cover preliminary due diligence costs, such as survey, title, search, environment, and audit to acquire the Methodist parking lot and Duval trio prior to closing, with such cost to be covered eventually by the mortgage upon closing.

Vicar’s Report: The Rev. Mark Anderson reported on staffing updates and on budgetary goals of the Bookstore. The 2023 audit is due to be complete soon. The 2024 audit should then be complete by early June.

Dean’s Report: Dean Kate spoke about her upcoming sabbatical. Will Ketchum is finalizing the document of good faith relationship with the Diocese. Christopher Martin will be at the cathedral promoting and teaching about discipleship groups.

Other- We are still searching for a Treasurer.

Closing Prayer