Vestry Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2026
6:00 p.m.
St John's Cathedral

Call to Order: **6 pm**
Members Present: John Bass, Martha Cox, John Erstling, Glenn Guiler, T.R. Hainline, Patrick Kimball, Caroline Nichols, Louis Russo, Shane Williams
Members Absent: Rebecca Black, Paige Hakimian, JJ Howell, Adam Smith
Others Present: John Sefton, Chancellor; Paul Arrington, Treasurer
Clergy and Staff Present: The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll, Dean; Rev. Canon Mark Anderson, Vicar; Megan Cochran, Parish Administrator
Quorum: Yes

Teaching Devotion by Clergy: The Rev. Canon Mark Anderson led the group as they engaged in reading and reflecting on biblical verses related to themes of abundance, community, and unity, with members taking turns to read verses and consider their personal interpretations.

Vital Signs

- **Financial Report**:
  - Giving is still lagging but should pick up in the 4th quarter.
  - Spending is holding under budget.
  - The Finance Committee recommends the Vestry:
    - Provide the Cathedral Bookstore and Giftshop with $40,000 in the 2027 annual budget, with an expectation of reassessing support in 2028, and of the Bookstore working with the development council as it relates to donor support and also partnering with other ministries and non-profits to drive additional revenue.
- **Pledge Update:**
  - Caroline Nichols reported that there have been good responses to the dinners but it is too early to have an update on 2027 pledges.
- **Nominating Committee:**
  - Martha Cox reported that the nominating committee for the next class of vestry members, delegates and alternates has been formed. Discussions around the needs of committees and councils will drive the creation of a slate.

Immediate Action Items

- **Consent Agenda:** No items being requested to be removed for discussion, Martha Cox motioned to approve all items on the Consent Agenda and Louis Russo seconded. All present voted to approve the following items:
  - August 2026 Meeting Minutes
  - Council Reports
  - CAP board members approved for another three year term: Anthony Austin, Michael Blaylock, Beverly Flannagan, Robyn Kreimborg, Marc Mayo and Danielle Whitley.

Adaptive Change: Bookstore Sustainability

- Paul Arrington, Kathryn Bissette and Sandi Dunnavant presented the spiritual and financial cases for additional financial support for the Cathedral Bookstore and Giftshop in the 2027 operating budget.
- They are asking for $40,000- a net increase of $30,000 over the existing $10,000 allocation in 2026.
- The presentation highlighted the bookstore's role in discipleship, formation, and community building, noting that it serves as a gateway for people to connect with the cathedral beyond Sunday services.
- Data was presented showing significant volunteer contributions, growing sales (from $92,000 in 2022 to projected $195,000 by year-end), and increasing online sales representing 33% of total sales.
- After discussion, Martha Cox motioned that the Vestry:
    - Be it **RESOLVED**:
    - The Vestry shall provide the Cathedral Bookstore and Giftshop with $40,000 in the 2027 annual budget
        - with an expectation of reassessing support in 2028,
        - and of the Bookstore working with the development council as it relates to donor support,
        - and partnering with other ministries and entities to drive additional revenue,
        - and working with the Vestry to develop a strategic plan for future sustainability.
- John Bass seconded and all present voted to approve the motion.

Executive Session

Closing Prayer: John Bass

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Megan Cochran