



# SAINT JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

## Vestry Minutes

May 9, 2016

**Attendees:** David Abbott, David Barr, Andrew Britton, Neil Burris, Amy Davis, Jack Denman, Tamra d'Estrée, Suni Devitt, Leigh Grinstead, Tom Keyse, Mike McCall, Ned Rule, Jane Schumaker, Patrick Malloy, Liz Costello, Robert Hendrickson, Charles LaFond, Elizabeth-Marie Melchionna, Kim McPherson, Sean Reese, Stephen Tappe, Ed Watson

**Absent:** Elizabeth Springer, Jadon Hartsuff

**Guests:** Bishop Robert O'Neill, Susan Chenier, Ray Stranske, Mary Francis Kelley

**Call to Order:** 6:12 PM Tom Keyse

**Opening Prayer:** Jack Denman

### Summary of Actions Taken and Consent Agenda Items:

- Approved a motion that the OTM Report will be revised for length in the next week or so, that the revised OTM Report will be distributed to the Vestry electronically, and that the Vestry will have five days following receipt of the revised draft to make comments.
- Approved a motion to provisionally accept the Parish Profile pending receipt by Leigh Grinstead of additional substantive comments by noon, Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Approved a motion to approve the Resolution to approve a transfer of property and a city no-build-zone in connection with the Saint Francis Center and to include a correction of a spelling mistake and the addition of the following language to the end of the first resolution: "pending final approval of the Bishop of Colorado and the Diocesan Standing Committee pursuant to the Canons of the Church."
- Approved a motion to approve the Resolution regarding the authority of the Senior Warden and the Dean to sign and deliver documents on behalf of the Cathedral.
- Approved a motion to approve the Diocese's Interim Letter of Agreement with Ronald Pogue. It was agreed that the action on this Letter agreement should be in the regular minutes.
- Approved the minutes of the April 11, 2016 Vestry meeting.

**Discussion of the Parish Profile, the OTM Report, and the Dean Search Status:** Leigh Grinstead and Susan Chenier led the discussion of the status of the OTM (Office in Transition Ministry) report and the Parish Profile.

**OTM Report:** a draft of this report was distributed to the Vestry. It was noted that the answers to the questions in this draft appeared to considerably exceed the character limit for answers to the questions in the OTM Report template. Amy Davis agreed to confirm the character limit and to revise the OTM Report draft to comply with this limit. A motion was made that the OTM Report will be revised for length in the next week or so, that the revised OTM Report will be



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distributed to the Vestry electronically, and that the Vestry will have five days following receipt of the revised draft to make comments. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Parish Profile:** a draft of the current version of the Parish Profile was distributed to the Vestry. Leigh Grinstead described the process by which she compiled Vestry members' comments on the previous draft. Grinstead noted that more information from the listening sessions held this fall was added, that more discussion of the teen program was added, that two parishioners' descriptions of their liturgical experience were added, that Denver city demographics were added, that the diversity section discussed liturgical practice differences because LGBT issues are not a source of diversity at Saint John's, information on giving was added, and that a section on who we are was added. Several comments about the Profile's length were made but they did not include specific sections that could be deleted. This draft of the Parish Profile is viewed as being close to final. It is hoped that a final version of the Profile can be distributed to the congregation during the All Parish meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and that at that time the Parish Profile and the OTM Report can be sent to the Bishop's office for formal posting. A motion was made to provisionally accept the Parish Profile pending receipt by Leigh Grinstead of additional substantive comments by noon, Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Saint Francis Center Apartments status discussion:** Ray Stranske reviewed a 5/2/16 memorandum from Larry Kueter included in the May Vestry packet regarding the status of the project and noting the need for approval of resolutions relating (1) to property transfers and a city no-build-zone requirement and (2) authorizing the Senior Warden and Dean to sign and deliver documents.

A motion was made to approve the Resolution to approve a transfer of property and a city No-build-zone in connection with the Saint Francis Center and to include a correction of a spelling mistake and the addition of the following language to the end of the first resolution: "pending final approval of the Bishop of Colorado and the Diocesan Standing Committee pursuant to the Canons of the Church." The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the Resolution regarding the authority of the Senior Warden and the Dean to sign and deliver documents on behalf of the Cathedral. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Stewardship Report:** Charles LaFond, Mike McCall, and Sean Reese described plans for this year's stewardship campaign that focuses on telling our stories. The campaign will include black and white videos of selected parishioners telling their stories. Post cards and request for parishioners to contribute their stories will be included in the campaign. More information is contained in Canon LaFond's detailed report in the May Vestry packet.

**Ministry in Action:** Elizabeth Marie Melchionna described recent activities in this ministry. The Ministry Sunday on May 15<sup>th</sup> is intended to be both a celebration of and a recruiting opportunity for the



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various lay ministries. It substitutes for the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held in past years. Several parishioners have expressed their displeasure and disappointment that the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is not being held. The reason for the change is a changing culture at the Cathedral that aims towards more effective programs and saving money.

Melchionna noted that following Liz Costello's return from parental leave, she has spent all her time on pastoral care, an important and often neglected ministry. She also noted that Ed Watson will be leaving in June to attend Yale Divinity School. The departure of both Liz and Ed leave big holes in the ministry in action programs. Careful consideration needs to be given to how these programs might be revised and covered.

**Music Department:** Stephen Tappe reported that installation of the antiphonal organ began this week.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Suni Devitt reported that the Commission is working on gathering information on the physical status of the campus and the various repairs, etc. that must be undertaken in the next year or two along with the estimated costs and funding sources for these repairs. Devitt also reported that the Deanery is under contract and that closing should occur at the end of this week. The sale price exceeds the initial asking price.

**Treasurer's Report:** Andrew Britton noted that the March 31<sup>st</sup> Financial Dashboard showed that pledge revenue was up and expenses were down for the first quarter. The Investment Committee met last week. The Cathedral's portfolio was up 1.16% for the first quarter of the year, which is below the US indexes. This is due in part to the fact that SJC's portfolio includes foreign securities that did poorly in the first quarter compared to US securities. In addition, the socially responsible fund in which some of SJC's portfolio is invested also underperformed the indexes. This is one of the consequences of this type of investment. The Investment Committee decided not to change the portfolio at this time. Britton reported that a quarterly meeting was held with Bishop O'Neill regarding the Cathedral's finances. Having regular quarterly meetings with the Bishop will be beneficial.

**Senior Warden's Report:** Tom Keyse reported that he's been busy preparing for the All Parish Meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and with other meetings.

**Action Item from the Executive Session:** a motion was made to approve the Diocese's Interim Letter of Agreement with Ronald Pogue. The motion was seconded. It was agreed that the action on this Letter agreement should be reported in the regular minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

- Approved the minutes of the April 11, 2016 Vestry meeting.



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**Liz Costello's final Vestry Meeting:** The Vestry recognized and thanked Mother Liz Costello for her three years of service as Curate at the Cathedral. This was her last Vestry meeting before her departure at the end of May.

**Adjourn:** 8:12 PM to go into Executive Session

**Closing prayer:** Liz Costello