

Vestry Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2020

Held via conference call (due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions)

Attendees: Jennifer Allen, Tom Barbour, Kathleen De Mars, Elizabeth Drummond, Leigh Grinstead, Mike Koechner, Toya, Nelson, Meg Parish, Ilana Poley, Helen Richards, David Rote, Angie Thomson, Michael Vente, Mark Wherry, Richard Lawson, Broderick Greer, Katie Pearson, Audrey Chapman

Absent: Bryant Harris, Robin Paulson

Call to Order: 4:03pm

Richard opened the meeting with a prayer. Vestry members shared what has been “life giving” during the time of crisis.

Richard also asked those working in the healthcare space about their experiences during the COVID-19 response. Vestry members said that the crisis was overwhelming, but that workers were doing the best they can with the resources available. Kathleen directed everyone to the Tri-County Health Department’s website for up to date COVID-19 related information:

<http://www.tchd.org/>

Summary of actions taken:

- Approved Vestry Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2020 (held via conference call due to COVID-19)
- Approved Clarkson Corporation Meeting Minutes from March 15, 2020 (held via conference call due to COVID-19)
- Approved Vestry Executive Committee Meeting Minutes from April 1, 2020 (held by email)
- Approved Vestry Meeting Minutes from April 9, 2020 (held by email)

Discussion

Dean’s Report (Richard Lawson)

Richard said that the Cathedral staff was in good spirits and everyone was doing well. He specifically thanked Broderick for all his work in planning all the services for Holy Week. All services were recorded prior to the statewide stay-at-home order and released on the appropriate day during Holy Week. Richard also thanked Katie for working to move all types of pastoral care to a different format to limit in-person contact. He also thanked Evans Ousley for all her work in her role directing communications for the Cathedral.

Richard said that he and other volunteers were in contact with leadership at the Saint Francis Apartments to support whatever needs the residents might have during this time. He said that the Women’s Homeless Initiative (WHI) has been suspended citywide, but the Cathedral continues to be in contact with the organizers to support alternative housing efforts. He said

that the Cathedral will donate the cots used for WHI, if needed. Richard said that FIA met online and that he continues to be in touch with leadership at Episcopal Relief and Development to know how the Cathedral can best serve in this time.

Richard said that the number of individuals camping on the Cathedral grounds has increased with the COVID-19 outbreak, but he hoped that increased space in shelters may decrease those numbers. He also said that the Cathedral continues to work with the Saint Francis Center to connect homeless individuals with supports.

Richard shared that he reached out to Governor Polis' staff to let them know that the Cathedral could be converted to house COVID-19 patients, if needed. The Governor's staff thanked Richard for the offer and will be in touch if the space is needed. Kathleen said that she was proud that the Cathedral stepped up to provide this support.

Richard said that the Stewardship Committee continues to meet and discuss ways to engage parishioners in online giving. He said that helping pledgers convert to electronic, recurring pledging will be a central focus in the months to come. Tom asked how electronic giving was working with the Realm system. Audrey said that Realm was being fully leveraged to help process and streamline the electronic giving process. Leigh asked if there were any additional ways that the Cathedral could support our community partners. Meg said that Metro Caring could benefit from expanded support and FIA will work to find ways to highlight that need with the Cathedral community.

Meg thanked Tina and Christina for all their work with the youth and offering ways for youth to connect during this time of social distancing.

Buildings & Grounds (Richard Lawson)

Richard provided an update on the renovations to the music basement. He said the entire music basement will re-open once the Cathedral re-opens. He said that the landscape architect was working with a civil engineer for upgrades on the Cathedral property. He hoped that sidewalk and handicap entrances upgrades can be completed during summer. David said he was very pleased with the work of the landscape architect and was very hopeful for the new vision of the entire project. David would like to share some of the plans once meetings can take place in-person again. Richard said the work on sidewalks and handicap entrances will be a good way to introduce the wider parish with the work of the landscape architect.

Continuing the Conversation, Exploration and Curiosity: Latinx/Hispanic Ministry and Saint John's Cathedral (Michael Vente and Broderick Greer)

Michael provided a brief overview of the past conversations the Vestry has had on Latinx/Hispanic outreach that the Cathedral may adopt. He said that the national Episcopal Church provides some data resources which can help inform paths the Cathedral might take. Episcopal Church "Research and Statistics":

<https://episcopalchurch.org/research-and-statistics>

Broderick said that he reached out to several parishes nationwide that were engaged in various types of Latinx/Hispanic ministries to learn about how they setup those ministries in the hopes of better informing the Vestry on all the types of opportunities. He received responses from several parishes which provide very different models of Latinx/Hispanic engagement, outreach, and worship. He summarized the various types of models (ranging from independent parishes to Latinx/Hispanic communities nested within parishes). He also provided a breakdown of what a typical Sunday may look like at each parish depending on the model used. He also noted that the parishes can have different motives for implementing an intentional Latinx/Hispanic ministry.

Leigh and Michael said that was interesting to hear the perspectives of the parishes and encouraged the Vestry to be mindful of the desires of the Latinx/Hispanic community so that whatever model tried at Saint John's best meets the community's needs. Broderick said that it was very important to listen to needs of the community and iterate on possible models of outreach. Ilana asked if Broderick reached out to Latinx/Hispanic ministries that were operating in Colorado. Broderick said that he did and will continue to work with the Bishop's Office staff and clergy and lay leaders in the diocese. Richard said that any new outreach needs to be grounded in sustainability and built in a way that incorporates any new community/members into the wider parish community. Meg wondered if there may be methods of outreach to the Latinx/Hispanic community that would could be simpler and allow the Cathedral to experiment to see what resonates. Richard said that the Bishop's Office and the head of ethnic ministries for the national church encouraged the Cathedral to move slowly and intentionally when developing any new ministry that is designed to reach the Latinx/Hispanic community. He hoped that the Vestry could continue these discussions to best inform the Cathedral's next steps. Ilana encouraged the Vestry to connect with individuals currently in congregation who are part of the Latinx/Hispanic community so that they can help build bridges into the wider community.

Broderick will do more research into parishes that implement other types of models. He said that many other parishes are doing innovative work in this space and the Cathedral should learn about those models to best gauge what might work for Saint John's.

Ilana asked about the current status of the Sudanese community that was worshipping at the Cathedral. Richard said that after Father Oja's death, some divisions present even prior to Father Oja's passing became more prominent and the community is no longer worshipping together. He said that he would continue to work with Alex Dyer in Bishop's Office (who has previous experience working as a missionary) and the leadership of the Sudanese community on the best path forward. Several Vestry members noted that the relationship with the Sudanese community was an example of why the Cathedral should move forward with new initiatives in a community driven manner so that our efforts are sustainable.

Other Clergy Reports (Broderick Greer/Katie Pearson)

Katie provided an update on pastoral care. She said the Community Without the Commute work has continued and has become vital connection for laity in the time of social distancing. The work has been driven largely by the laity and groups and digital get-togethers have organically sprung-up. Katie also said that she has worked to connect the most isolated parishioners with others in the parish community. Groups that existed prior to the COVID-19 outbreak continue to meet to find ways to connect with their members. She also said that a support group for those with cancer or who have been affected by cancer will be starting up soon. She also shared that some members of the Saint John's community have contracted COVID-19 and some have died. The various community ministries will work to serve the needs of those individuals and their families.

Broderick said that he held a virtual gathering for the 20s and 30s ministry. He said another virtual meeting will be held in April. He shared that the lighting repairs/upgrades in Saint Martin's Chapel are proceeding well.

DO and Treasurer's Reports (Audrey Chapman/Tom Barbour)

Audrey provided an overview of the Q1 2020 financials for the Cathedral. She noted potential expense savings that the Cathedral is seeing due to the COVID-19 closure. She said that comparisons between similar weeks last year to this year showed that revenues were strong. She said that pledges were tracking well but there was a great deal of uncertainty in how pledges might be impacted for the remainder of the year. She briefly summarized the detail provided in the Vestry packet around financials and would gladly provide more information for any Vestry member wanting more detail.

Audrey said that the Cathedral was able to successfully apply and receive funds from the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program. The support will greatly help the Cathedral in meeting payroll and utility costs. Tom thanked Audrey for all her work navigating the ever-changing landscape related to COVID-19.

Tom said that the Bishop's Office may exercise options available to them in terms of the annual Cathedral Ridge note payment. Nothing has been decided but Tom will continue to update the Vestry when more information becomes available.

Tom provided a quick update on the on-going discussions on the re-development of the Kimberly and Cathedral Square North property. He said that conversations continue on performing appraisals for the property and Tom will update all parties involved as the appraisals are completed. Richard expressed his thanks for all of Tom's work on this on-going project. Meg asked how the management company for the Kimberly property was responding to those experiencing hardship in paying rent. Audrey said that currently very few tenants have reached out experiencing hardship but that the management company reaches out to Audrey before any eviction take place. Mike asked if the soil testing on the Kimberly property was completed. Audrey said she would receive more information on those tests in the coming weeks.

Audrey said work on the annual audit continues and that she and Kris will be working with the auditor virtually to get them the necessary information.

Senior Warden's Report (Leigh Grinstead)

Leigh said that she will be reaching out to Meg, Elizabeth, Jennifer, and Helen (as the middle Vestry class) to plan for nominations for convention and the next incoming Vestry class. She will outline process that will be led by Meg, Elizabeth, Jennifer, and Helen. However, she encouraged all Vestry members to support their efforts to identify members of the congregation to serve.

Junior Warden's Report (Michael Vente)

Michael briefly mentioned work to support the Cathedral in applying for grant opportunities from philanthropic organizations. He said that a group may come together to identify potential opportunities and pull together the necessary information in the hopes that increased grants can financially support the Cathedral in new ways.

Consent Agenda

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The consent agenda was approved.

Adjournment of Vestry meeting to prayers: 6:13pm