



SAINT JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting September 18, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 4:02pm

Present: Illana Poley, Greg Movesian, Bradley Jackson, Rebecca Richardson, William McMechen, Michael Koechner, Audrey Chapman, David Loos, Shirley Traettino, Katie Pearson, Broderick Greer, Kate Dykstra, Mark Wherry, Helen Richards, Michael Vente, Richard Lawson

Absent: Leigh Grinstead, Jenipher Jones, Kathleen DeMars, Rodger Hara

Guests: Gordon Brooks (New Director of Stewardship at Saint John's) and Polly Breit (Senior Vice President -CCS Fundraising)

Summary of Actions:

The Vestry voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Opening Prayer – Richard opened the meeting with a prayer

Guests Introduction

Richard introduced Gordon Brooks, the new Director of Stewardship at Saint John's. Gordon spoke briefly about accepting his new position as Director of Stewardship. He is a retired architect, and he believes his background will be helpful for the cathedral.

Kate introduced Polly Breit from Community Counseling Services (CCS) Fundraising. Polly is a Senior Vice President at CSS and is working with Saint John's in oversight of the pre-capital campaign feasibility interviews with parishioners and community.

Interim Report CCS Pre-Campaign Feasibility Study

Saint John's is conducting fifty personal interviews, group interviews after services, internet interviews, and private conversations with potential donors for a potential capital campaign. Polly Breit with CCS went over the High-Level Findings chart on page 14 of the Vestry packet looking at the strengths and challenges facing Saint Johns with the campaign. There are many strengths that excite people: our clergy, our community, and music to name a few. Some of the challenges we are faced with include people leaving religious organizations right now, the need for young families, and unfortunately, challenges with world affairs right now, the economy and wars in Ukraine and other parts of the world. CCS will join the October Vestry meeting to present the final results from the interviews.



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October 23rd will be the last Sunday that Richard will talk about the 2023 Annual Pledge Campaign at Sunday services.

Five Year Plan/2023 Budget Draft 1

Audrey presented an overview of the Five-Year Plan from pages 22 and 23 of the Vestry packet. Added to the expenses beginning in 2026 and 2027 will be the salaries and departmental expenses of our Stewardship Director and Missioner. Their current salaries are covered by the gift from the Spencer Funds. The volatility in the stock market in 2022 has resulted, for 2023's budget, in an \$80,000 drop in the expected Endowment Draw for the Operating Budget in 2023 (the drop is since estimates of the endowment draw in early January of this year). Audrey also flagged that Cost-of-Living Adjustments (COLAs) for staff are plugged in for 2023 right now at 2%; historically the Finance Committee and the Vestry have elected to increase that number as they were able.

Tom Barbour said that this is the best-looking five-year plan that he has seen, and he has optimism about the red figures going forward. Tom also mentioned that he is nearing his six-year term limit as treasurer and that Shirley Traettino her term limits as Assistant Treasurer; they will both be required to take a break after 2023. Tom and Richard are actively considering candidates for the new treasurer.

2022 Budget Update – Repairs and Maintenance

Audrey noted that the cathedrals repairs and maintenance expenses are over budget by \$56,000 due to critical and unplanned repairs of: the HVAC for the Parish Building, sprinklers kitchen equipment, asphalt in the parking lot, and the elevators. Audrey will continue to track this amount and will work with Finance Committee to plan for how that will affect the 2022 Operating Budget bottom line.

Clergy Reports

Katie reported that today was the kickoff to the start of the Formation Program Year; there were sixty-five present today for the Dean's Forum and that the children's programs are active in attendance.

Katie also shared the letter from Jennie Creasey regarding her decision to not continue forward in the discernment process. For Jennie, the discernment process led to a realization she is happier in her current volunteer roles at Saint John's. Richard also emphasized that we need more participation in getting people signed up for Ushering.

Broderick reported that he is working with Audrey, Georgie, Gordon, and Evans on the 2023 Annual Pledge Campaign. October 9, 2022, is the campaign kick-off and the theme for this year is "Behold, I am doing a new thing". About a week before October 9th parishioners will receive letters in the mail explaining the campaign, starting on October 9th pledge cards will be put out



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in the cathedral. Additionally, we will publish videos of parishioners stating how they are involved and why they pledge. One benefit to these videos, in contrast with in-person Ministry Moments in the Sunday services, is that these videos can be shared and can be watched anytime. Saint John's stories are compelling on the videos. October 23rd is the last day that the Annual Pledge Campaign drive will be in the Sunday announcements. Then, in early November, key staff and lay volunteers will start reaching out to people to ask them to pledge if they have not yet pledged. On the worship front, the cumulative attendance last Sunday (September 11th) was 487. There were 82 at the 8:00am service, 349 at the 10:30 service, and 56 at the Wilderness. There were also 73 at Evensong today.

Dean's Report

Richard provided a brief update on the three newest hires. Richard highlighted that Gordon Brooks, our new Director of Stewardship, is an architect and recently retired as Dean of the College of the Arts and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and accepted the position at Saint John's with the condition that it be a $\frac{3}{4}$ time position. Richard impressed upon the Vestry the importance of introducing members to Gordon and highlighted that his experience as an architect and a member of the Arts & Architecture Commission lends credibility to the items being considered as priorities in the capital campaign feasibility study. Regarding our position for Missioner for Justice and Community Partnerships, Richard mentioned that he would like the hire to also be a Deacon. Finally, as previously mentioned, Kris Jenkins is retiring after 20 years at Saint John's (the last ten or so of which she was the Staff Accountant). The Accountant position has been posted on Indeed and LinkedIn, and Richard found a candidate through internal Episcopal connection. Audrey said that we have a great lead candidate that she will be interviewing soon.

Nominations Committee

Michael V. directed the Vestry to look at page 39 of the Vestry Packet to review a Draft Charter of the Nominating Committee. In the past, the middle vestry class handled the nominations. For 2023 there are four regular Vestry seats to be filled, as well as the Senior and Junior Wardens. The Vestry then had a short discussion with Michael V. as to the need to think about what skills and traits are missing from the current roster.

Consent Agenda

Greg motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Michael Koechner seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mark Wherry closed with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53pm