



April Vestry Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 6 p.m.
Diocesan House Council Room
Dinner hosts: Greg & Martha

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of all the Coast Salish tribes.

Vestry Members Present

Christopher Breunig
Martha Craig
Phil Haas, Junior Warden for Finance
Sophie Hager Hume, Diocesan Member (Zoom)
Greg Hamm, Senior Warden
Sam Herring
Hannah Hochkeppel
Becky Kacel, Diocesan Member (Zoom)
Julia Logan, Junior Warden for Facilities
Mark Lundquist
Sarah McCord
Deborah Person
Canon Valerie Reinke, Bishop's Representative
Peter Snyder, Junior Warden for Stewardship
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean
Alexandra Thompson
The Rev. Gail Wheatley, Diocesan Member (Zoom)

Officers Present

Lynne Cobb, Treasurer (Zoom)
Barbara Erickson, Clerk
Re Knack, Chancellor (Zoom)

Staff Members Present

Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator
The Rev. Canon Emily Griffin, Canon Vicar

Guests

John Hoerster, Chancellor Emeritus and Affordable Housing Committee chair (Zoom)

Dean Thomason opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgement and a prayer at 6:00 p.m. He thanked Martha Craig and Greg Hamm for preparing the meal.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt the March 25, 2025, Vestry Meeting minutes as amended to include the Communications Ministry report.

STRATEGIC THEME CHECK-IN

Empowering the Call to Action and Service

As ministry leaders, the responses ranged from helping the new vestry members acclimate, inclusiveness reflected in inviting others to help with the banquet; Call to Action emphasized with preparations for Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, the Capital Campaign, removing barriers so all can live out their own Call to Action, Radix Groups as transforming the cathedral, and the Spirit will raise up a leader for Creation Care.

OLD BUSINESS

Sanctuary Network

Canon Griffin is trying to establish relationships and connections with Casa Latina to learn more about what is happening with our Latino neighbors while keeping those interested in sanctuary work informed about the different training opportunities available and the invitation to participate in their Rhythms of Resistance gala in the fall. She is scheduled to meet with a diocesan priest who is volunteering at St. Joseph's Catholic Church to understand what they are doing and to see if there is an opportunity to build relationships where we can be effective on the ground. There is also a possibility for book studies in the future.

Affordable Housing Update

John Hoerster, Affordable Housing Committee chair, discussed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Redwood Housing for the Affordable Housing Project. John explained that most issues have been resolved, with two main areas of dispute remaining: 1) determining the economic interests of Redwood and Saint Mark's by July 31, and 2) ensuring Saint Mark's mission is fulfilled long-term. The agreement outlines Redwood's responsibilities for financing and guarantees, while Saint Mark's will form a community-based organization to participate in the project. The Vestry, having had all their questions answered, felt comfortable in authorizing the Executive Committee to execute the MOA before the next vestry meeting.

Dean Thomason reminded everyone that the Cathedral Commons Forum on May 21 will provide updates on the redevelopment of the St. Nicholas property for affordable housing.

A motion to authorize the Executive Committee to execute the final form of the Memorandum of Agreement with Redwood Housing was made, seconded and passed.

Pedestrian Crosswalk and Safety at Exit Drive

The vestry authorized the funding for this project several months ago in theory and identified the equipment needed. Junior Warden Julia Logan reported that she and Subdean Marc Aubertin met with city permitting officials who were in favor of safety measures that face our property. This would be the lighted stop sign, the radar that warns the driver that a pedestrian is approaching. The warning for pedestrians that alerts them that a vehicle is coming is not permitted. An alternative would be to build an awareness within the congregation that there are pedestrians or cyclists who may or may not hear or see vehicles leaving the property.

The Garden Ministry is involved with the hedges and other vegetation that may impede the sightline. It has been observed that the curb cut at the exit is narrower than the driveway, resulting in ruts as

vehicles drive over the curb. To address this issue, concrete will be poured in the easement to mitigate the problem.

Cathedral Window Replacement Project Update

Dean Thomason reported that the installation of the last windows in Bloedel Hall were completed today, but the installers will be finishing the framing and trim work. The installation of windows for the upstairs windows (staff offices) will begin this week.

Capital Campaign

Dean Thomason reviewed the important dates of the Living Stones II: Building a Sound Future capital campaign:

- May 10 – day of prayer
- May 17 – Advance Commitments Reception, 4–6 p.m.
- May 18 – 10:10 a.m. forum, Canon Griffin’s Godly Play – The Church. An intergenerational opportunity to learn the importance of sacred space; there will be activities for children with Sandy Nelson, which will be displayed at the All-Parish Banquet.
- June 6 – All-Parish Banquet, begins at 5:30 p.m., program anticipated to begin at 6:45

NEW BUSINESS

Staffing Updates and Finance Dept

Dean Thomason reviewed the staffing updates:

- Elizabeth Antley also serves as a part-time Early Childhood Music Teacher, who will be piloting a toddler and preschool music program.
- Bookkeeper Stephen Eddy remains on medical leave. With his absence and through the work of temporary employee Chris Wilton, Treasurer Lynne Cobb, and Subdean Marc Aubertin, the complexity of the cathedral’s finances became apparent. A senior level accountant is needed, and a job description will be posted. This means we will be over budget on salaries this year, but it enables an opportunity for a different financial structure.
- Jim Van Horn, part-time Music Librarian, is temporarily taking on the Scheduler role of Stephen’s job.
- Josh Judd-Herzfeldt assumes a new role as Communication Assistant.

IT Server

Our current IT server is six years old, is experiencing some glitches, and has exceeded its lifespan. Greg Hamm and Marc Aubertin have researched the cost of a new server and Datto device with failover capability. This amounts to a \$17,000 capital expenditure. Greg was thanked by the Dean for all the research and investigation into the server replacement.

A motion to authorize the expenditure for an IT Server and a 2TB Datto Siris 5 device was made, seconded, and passed.

Fire Panel Replacement

Dean Thomason reminded everyone of the piercing sound coming from the control panel for fire alarm system. The control panel has an unrepairable ground fault. AAA Fire Protection now maintains all the fire systems throughout the campus. They have provided a quote for \$28,000. This will be a capital expenditure. There is a revision to the quote that will include a one-year parts and labor warranty.

A motion was to approve the replacement of the fire control panel in the cathedral building was made, seconded, and passed.

Security Camera Vandalism/Replacement

Dean Thomason reminded everyone that the cost for the replacement of the vandalized security camera on the north side of the cathedral was \$1,300, and this has been completed (the camera is now located in a higher position).

Memorial Garden on Cathedral Close

Under discussion for years, Dean Thomason will charge an ad hoc committee to recommend a location and design for a memorial garden on the cathedral grounds. The decision must be forward thinking enough that the placement will not compromise future opportunities.

A motion to pursue the location and design of a memorial garden, was made, seconded, and passed.

Center for Spirituality and Action

Dean Thomason provided an update that the first intentional community group is ending in mid-June. The need for a limited part-time role to lead the effort was identified and funded with a grant for the first two years along with tuition. Bishop LaBelle also expressed an interest in integrating clergy wellness into the program. Lambert House still has a lease at Leffler House, so nothing will happen until the lease is up.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Senior Warden

Greg Hamm reflected on the consistent themes identified during the capital campaign home gatherings – these are challenging times for all, the cathedral is a place where balance can be found. In parallel, it is incumbent upon the vestry to continue to be involved with parish members. The clergy cannot do everything all the time; it is important to keep that balance. The capital campaign itself presents another side besides just a fundraising effort – What is the value of this place, why is it here, and what is it welcoming for? – provides an opportunity to pull people together.

Dean

Dean Thomason reported:

- Urban Suburban Clergy Group meets annually during the second week of Easter, Sunday/Monday through Thursday. Steve is hosting this year. and with the generosity of discounted pricing, everyone is staying at the Sorrento Hotel.
- Convene, a diocesan workshop that happens every other year, is a clearinghouse of ideas for lay and clergy members on May 31 at Everett Community College. It is the same weekend as the Women's Retreat.
- Creation Care is in transition and conversation is happening with good energy and we, as an organization and vestry, are committed to seeing how it might look differently in the future.
- Seattle Amistad School, the primary tenant in the St. Nicholas Building, has had financial challenges as they are tuition-based. The wardens and Chancellor Re Knack are navigating how to manage this in a three-step process. The first step has not worked well and has caused a cashflow

problem for us, so if we want them to succeed, thrive and turn the corner, we will meet with them and figure out what to do.

- On April 27 2:00 there will be a quinceañera in the nave. This is a special celebration of Schola member Belén Alvarez's 15th birthday, marking her coming of age – cultural experience out of the norm.
- We have had 13 funerals through the end of March, which is normally the average for a year! Four more are scheduled. This takes a toll pastorally on the staff as well as on the life of the community as they feel the losses.
- Priestly ordinations on June 14 include Adam Conley, Lynne Markova, and Kelly Moody. Adam will be the curate at Saint Mark's, Lynne the priest-in-charge at St. Paul's, Port Townsend, and Kelly will remain in the Diocese of Tennessee.

MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance

Phil Haas thanked Lynne Cobb for all her work during this time of transition. The March and possibly April financial statements will be available in May. Lynne is working with the auditors, who are beginning their preliminary work. The diocese is aware of a potential late 2024 audit submission.

Facilities

A big shoutout to the staff for their incredible job on helping to complete the pedestrian signal, considering all the moving components involved. The Garden Ministry is looking for new volunteers (contact Kelly Lundquist).

Stewardship

If you have suggestions for a theme for the fall stewardship campaign, let Peter Snyder know. The Ministry Fair on May 4 is also a time to thank all ministries and members for the work that they do.

Creation Care

Deborah Person reported that conversations with former co-chairs Kathy Minsch and Marjorie Ringness are ongoing.

Intergenerational Council

Martha Craig reported that their next meeting is May 12. Volunteers are needed to help at Cathedral Day on May 3 for a variety of roles. The Radix plenary, with 54 signups to date, is on April 27.

Restorative Justice Council

Christopher Breunig shared their next meeting is on April 27; a Creation Care idea will be a topic with Kathy Minsch, Marjorie Ringness, and Deborah Person invited to attend. "Becoming a Poverty Abolitionist" forum will be held on April 30 – an outcry from the book groups – to discover "what we do in light of what we know."

Communications

Alexandra Thompson reported that there was a discussion about bringing back the podcast ministry; there has been some interest, but more people with interest and time are sought. The same applies to how we want to stream our music. The process is not clear and there is room for growth in this area. Maria Coldwell has been invited to the next meeting to share her experiences with *The Rubric*. There is ongoing conversation about the various social media platforms to determine recommendations for how we allocate our resources.

CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER

Checkouts were given, and the closing prayer was given by Sarah McCord. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson
Clerk

Erik Donner
Cathedral Administrator

Dates/Events of note

May 3	Cathedral Day
May 4	Ministry Fair Sunday
May 17	Advance Commitments Gathering
June 6	Parish Banquet for Campaign
June 8	Campaign Ingathering/Pentecost
June 14	Ordinations to the priesthood