

SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL VESTRY RETREAT – 02/01/2025 9 AM, Leffler House

Present: Steve Thomason, Greg Hamm, Julia Logan, Valerie Reinke, Gail Wheatley, Phil Haas, Emily Griffin, Hannah Hochkeppel, Lynne Cobb, Mark Lundquist, Peter Snyder, Alexandra Thompson, Deborah Person, Sarah McCord, Martha Craig, Sam Herring, Christopher Breunig
Absent: Becky Kacel, Barbara Erickson, Re Knack

Dean Steve called us to order, delivered the Land Acknowledgment, gathered us in prayer focused on Saint Brigid of Kildare, and reviewed our Agenda.

Following check-in and introductions, Steve led us in Lectio Divina on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 12.

Strategic Conversation #1

Greg led us in a discussion and review of the 2024 Strategic Plan with breakout sessions on what we have been doing on each of the elements, what might we do more or less, any additions and what we can do to communicate and incorporate them into our common life? Ideas included:

- No is a spiritual answer as we name and claim the sabbath.
- Succession planning is key to ministries, as well as embracing the fact that ministries can and do sunset. End of ministry with acknowledgement of accomplishments and gratitude for the leadership.
- Ministries should consider grouping opportunities or other ways of describing activities for ease of volunteering. Publicize spiritual direction and discernment resources and opportunities.
- Tell stories of how our time and talent make ministries happen.

Strategic Conversation #2

Steve led us in a discussion of how do we live out our Strategic Goals in a balanced way that is neither frenetic nor wears down individuals, both staff and lay members. We reviewed the List of Ministries, the Washington D.C. Diocese-developed Parish Vitality Wheel and discussed the richness of ministries and the fact that this is a very big list for a staff of 19 to support. We also reviewed a handout of Communal Spiritual Practices. Conversation included observations that ministries cannot grow or be staffed in ways that do not allow each of us to live into our spiritual practices. Any new or different ministries will require lay leadership and organization, with Cathedral staff serving in a supportive and liaison model. We also discussed the need to consider what the end of a ministry looks like and to celebrate with gratitude the accomplishments and support leave taking.

Strategic Conversation #3

Greg led us on a discussion of the Mutual Ministry Goals for 2024 and consider what changes Executive Committee might work into a proposed Mutual Ministry Goals for 2025. Discussions included observation that in 2025 the Capital Campaign will launch. We also discussed the importance of the work of sanctuary and supporting and welcoming those made more vulnerable by actions impacting immigrants. Steve discussed a number of factors that are still being analyzed as to how the work of

sanctuary will take form but that the work is something the Cathedral is committed to in the past, present and future. The group concluded that the work of sanctuary should be included in the 2025 Mutual Ministry Goals, and Executive Committee will come back to Vestry with a proposal.

Afternoon Business Meeting of the Vestry

- Steve called us to Order at 1:35pm and the Vestry unanimously elected Barbara Erickson as Vestry Clerk and Lynne Cobb as Treasurer.
- After discussion, the Vestry unanimously elected Julia Logan as Junior Warden for Facilities, Phil Haas as Junior Warden for Finance, and Peter Snyder as Junior Warden for Stewardship.
- Resolution #25-GO-02 for Executive Committee was passed, and no resolution for Check Signers was needed.
- Task Force on Accessibility reported on its work and its plans
- Discussion of annual meeting voting included feedback on sick/shut in voting, need for early notice of dates and voting rules, enjoyment of the expanded time to vote and welcome in the Narthex, and increase of number of votes cast of 43% over prior year.

Vestry Liaisons to Committees were identified as follows:

- Finance – Phil Haas, Greg Hamm, Lynne Cobb
- Facilities – Julia Logan, Greg Hamm, Lynne Cobb
- Stewardship – Peter Snyder, Alexandra Thompson, Greg Hamm, Deborah Person
- Restorative Justice – Christopher Breunig, Hannah Hochkeppel, Peter Snyder
- Creation Care – Gail Wheatley, Deborah Person
- Intergenerational Council – Martha Craig, Sarah McCord, Mark Lundquist, Valerie Reinke
- Worship & Prayer – Julia Logan, Mark Lundquist, Hannah Hochkeppel, Deborah Person
- Communications – Alexandra Thompson, Sam Herring, Mark Lundquist
- Accessibility – Alexandra Thompson, Valerie Reinke, Gail Wheatley

Vestry meetings—Until Diocesan House is available, meetings will be in Saint Nicholas Room 102 in March, April, and May on a hybrid basis if Zoom capability can be proved. If Zoom capability is not available in that room, those meetings will be by Zoom.

Review and acceptance of Parochial Report will be by email later in February, which must be unanimous.

Steve reminded Vestry of the need to complete Safe Church training and annual Conflict of Interest form.

Check out and Closing Prayer. Meeting Adjourned at 2:35pm.

Submitted by Christopher Breunig