



Minutes of Trinity Cathedral Vestry Meeting May 26, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.

Present:

Vestry Members: Cynthia Ries, Sr. Warden; John Chapman, Jr. Warden; Mark Biddlestone; Marie Curry; Martin Hermes; Diane Hexter; Audrey Hudak; Jon Logan; Wendy Miano; Antoinette Ponzo; Jeff Spiess; Marilyn Valencia

Staff: The Very Rev. Bernard Owens, Dean; Megan Allen-Miller, Priest Associate

Appointed Officers: Darrell Lausche, Clerk of Vestry; Melody Hart, Treasurer

Guests: Dave Miano, Property and Sustainability Committee Chair; Marous Brothers Architects

Absent: The Rev. Canon Adrienne Koch, Canon for Mission and Transformation;

- The Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.
- Marie Curry led Vestry in the opening devotional.

Formation

- Mission Team: Community Partnerships & Outreach

The Reverend Megan Allen-Miller, Priest Associate, provided a report on the work of the Community Partnerships & Outreach Mission Team. There are four main areas of focus, including the Maroon Sterling Partnership, Urban Farm, Campus Ministry, and A Place at the Table. She highlighted progress of each ministry area. Congregational support remains strong with the Maroon Sterling Partnership. The Urban Farm experienced an 18% increase in production in 2025. There is a need to increase volunteer participation, repair the irrigation system, etc. The Campus Ministry is in development. Sustaining partnerships are difficult to maintain with shifting administrative staffing at Cleveland State University. Trinity Cathedral is working in a partnership format with student organizations on campus. A Place at the Table is planning for continued operation during construction in the Cathedral Hall kitchen. A trial run will occur during the Capital Campaign kick-off event. There is a desire to increase the number of volunteers in the program.

Reverend Megan shared information about the new SNAP Volunteer Partnership Initiative. The inspiration for this ministry resulted as someone approached her about opportunities to complete volunteer work for their SNAP benefits. Trinity Cathedral has gone through the process of becoming an approved site for volunteers and to know what can and cannot be offered for volunteer opportunities. It is anticipated that the program can expand to provide broader support for community and congregational members.

- Dean's Report – Dean Owens
 - Staffing Update – Dean Owens asked to move into Executive Session. **Jeff Spiess moved, "to move into Executive Session." Audrey Hudak seconded the motion. The motion passed.** The Vestry moved into Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. **Jeff Spiess moved, "to end Executive Session." Wendy Miano seconded the motion. The motion passed.** Executive Session ended at 7:47 p.m.

Generative Work

- Cathedral Hall Presentation

The architects from Marous Brothers presented information on the design development for Cathedral Hall. Project booklets were distributed to the members of Vestry. Mr. Edmond reviewed the process to date. Updated renderings of the final project were presented, too. Members of Vestry asked questions for clarification. Dave Miano recommended scheduling a meeting to work through questions about the mechanical systems being proposed for the project. The conversation would have to occur before decisions about moving forward with construction documents can be made. The Vestry will need to meet via

Zoom to make that decision between the May and June 2026 Vestry meetings. Dave Miano, Property and Sustainability Committee Chair, summarized what he had heard during the presentation and what his next steps may need to be.

Fiduciary Work

- Adoption of Consent Agenda
 - April Meeting Minutes

Jon Logan moved, “to adopt the consent agenda.” Toni Ponzo seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- Property & Sustainability

Mark Biddlestone shared that an exterior façade analysis is underway. The committee will review the results. An HVAC assessment is also being done. The Vesting Room windows have been reinstalled after restoration. The west transept medieval window is scheduled to be reinstalled soon. The Flentrop window is scheduled next. There is a water leak that is in process of finding the source. It is not causing damage, just wasting water. The Euclid Avenue doors to the cathedral are still scheduled to be refinished. A third set of hinges may be necessary for stability.

- Vestry Nominating Committee

Dean Owens reminded Vestry members that the nominations process begins in August. He shared that two members of Vestry are elected by Vestry to join the committee. He stressed the need for continuity.

- Stewardship Committee – Dean Owens
 - 2027 Pledge Goal – The Stewardship Committee is requesting Vestry input. There is an opportunity to encourage growth in annual giving that compliments capital campaign giving.
 - Capital Campaign – Member of Vestry were able to review the capital campaign literature folder. The brochure is the focal point, and the folders include a pledge envelope. A pledge card and the giveaway for the campaign are also included. Cynthia Ries reminded the members of Vestry about the kick-off event on May 31, 2026. Marous Brothers, Whitney Stained-Glass Studio, and Key Bank will be represented to answer questions.

- Vestry Schedule

Dean Owens requested a review of the Vestry schedule. He requested the June 16, 2026, meeting moved to June 23, 2026, due to conflicts in his schedule. A called meeting regarding the Cathedral Hall project may be called the week of June 8, 2026. Dean Owens also proposed moving the July 21, 2026, meeting to July 14, 2026, if a July meeting is needed. The meeting changes were agreed upon by the members of Vestry.

- Treasurer’s Report

Melody Hart, Treasurer, presented the monthly financial reports for Trinity Cathedral and Cathedral Commons. Congregational support, diocesan contributions, and the timing of a gift are currently lower than budget. This contributes to the Cathedral revenue being unfavorable to budget. Expenses continue to be favorable to budget. Trinity Commons revenue and expenditures are following a similar trend.

The cash flow forecast was also presented. The operational additional draw on the endowment will carry through the summer. Capital additional draw will need to be done in the fall. The draw is based on estimate on when expenses will be incurred throughout the year. **John Chapman moved, “to accept the treasurer’s report.” Marie Curry seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

Closing Prayer



Marie Curry led Vestry in a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting: June 23, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

**Note: One week later to accommodate the Dean Owens' availability.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darrell Lausche", is written over a horizontal line.

Darrell Lausche, Clerk of Vestry

