



**Minutes of Trinity Cathedral Vestry Meeting
June 23, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.**

Present:

Vestry Members: Cynthia Ries, Sr. Warden; Mark Biddlestone; 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: Kim DeNero-Ackroyd

Absent: John Chapman, Jr. Warden; Marie Curry; The Rev. Canon Adrienne Koch, Canon for Mission and Transformation;

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

Formation

- Dean's Report

Dean Owens reflected on operations during Canon Koch's sabbatical, noting that the staff's strength has kept everything on track. During Cathedral Hall construction, A Place at the Table (APATT) will move into the space Trinity Cathedral leases to outside groups. Feedback from guests during the trial Sunday in that space was very positive. The space offers more natural light and better support for conversation. Dean Owens also noted increased use of Trinity Commons. He highlighted the efforts of the Music Department in increasing use by outside ensembles. He acknowledged that a challenge to be addressed is in encouraging Trinity Cathedral members to participate in mid-week events.

Fiduciary Work

- Treasurer's Report

Melody Hart, Treasurer, presented an update on the Trinity Cathedral and Cathedral Commons monthly financial statements. Cathedral revenue is unfavorable to budget, due primarily to congregational support being less than budgeted and the timing of an expected gift. Earned income includes a wedding and columbarium sale. Cathedral expenses continue to be favorable to budget.

Trinity Commons Revenue continues to be unfavorable to budget, particularly due to daily parking as a result of issues with the gate and credit card reader. The gas line work on Prospect impacted parking as well. Trinity Commons expenses remain favorable to budget.

The cashflow forecast is in a good position for the summer. Contracts to be signed and work commencing will be variables. Additional operational draws are not expected before fall.

Melody and Dan Hout-Riley, Controller, are researching financing options for the Cathedral Hall renovations. They will present options at the time that a decision will need to be made.

- Adoption of Consent Agenda
 - May and June Special Meeting Minutes

Marilyn Valencia moved, "to adopt the consent agenda." Martin Hermes seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Property & Sustainability – Mark Biddlestone

- Midyear Review/Approved Projects – Mark provided an update on the status of approved capital projects. Ongoing projects include the exterior façade assessment, stained glass window restoration, masonry work, cathedral door refinishing, cathedral marble flooring, HVAC systems, courtyard paver replacement, and basement waterproofing at the nursery area in the courtyard. Upcoming projects include cathedral lighting, commons LED lighting fixtures, basement waterproofing of the archival area, AV/ZOOM conference room upgrades, and parking lot software upgrades. Each item was detailed on a summary sheet shared with Vestry via the Vestry Dropbox. The committee will meet next on July 7, 2026. Vestry members asked clarification questions.

- Vestry Nominating Committee

Cynthia Ries, Senior Warden, nominated Marilyn Valencia and Martin Hermes as Vestry representatives to the Nominating Committee. **Diane Hexter moved to accept the nomination of Marilyn Valencia and Martin Hermes as Vestry representative to the Nominating Committee. Toni Ponzo seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

- Stewardship: Pledge Goal 2027

Dean Owens shared that the Stewardship Committee meets monthly. This year's theme is "A New Heart and a New Spirit". The committee has asked for a goal to be set. The additional layer to consider is being in the process of a capital campaign. The committee discussed encouraging members to increase by a set percentage each year over the next three years. Vestry members offered their input to the conversation. Further discussion is set to occur at the next Vestry meeting.

- Cathedral Hall Update

Cynthia Ries, Senior Warden, provided an update. Dave Miano continues to work on details and scheduling meetings. Ted Andrews is working on getting bids for soft cost items. Marous Brothers has begun to elicit bids for aspects of the construction. A request about setting a goal for women-owned and minority-owned sub-contractors was raised. Marous Brothers will be asked about what a specific percentage goal is the industry standard.

Generative Work

- Operations Discussion

Cynthia Ries, Senior Warden, shared the need to follow up with a conversation at the Vestry retreat regarding the operations of Trinity Cathedral and Trinity Commons. There is a need to get a sense of how to address everything effectively, and respectful to the budget, with the day-to-day operations, upcoming construction, etc. Dean Owens presented some exploratory work that he and Dan Hout-Riley, Controller, have done to find a pathway to meet the needs that are present. Questions and input were offered.

- Capital Campaign

Cynthia Ries, Senior Warden, provided an update on the capital campaign. The committee is meeting on June 24, 2026. Discussion will include congregational engagement. The connection between the contributions and how they are being used in the cathedral is a key factor to communicate. Trinity will be ramping up communication about planned gifts, because August is Make a Will Month.

- Summer Congregational Calls

Audrey Hudak reminded Vestry that it is time to contact, via phone and email, the members of the congregation to elicit feedback and any variety of need. She asked if information about the capital campaign should be included. Jeff Spiess reminded the members of Vestry that past discussions about this were to keep the contacts separate from any donations and to keep the calls as a check-in focus. Discussion about skipping this year occurred.

Closing Prayer

Jon Logan led Vestry in a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting: July 14, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. (If Needed)



August 18, 2026, 5:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,


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

Darrell Leusche, Clerk of Vestry

