



**Minutes of Trinity Cathedral Vestry Meeting
November 18, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.**

Present:

Vestry Members: Jeff Spiess, Sr. Warden; Beth Billings, Jr. Warden; Mark Biddlestone; John Chapman; Marie Curry; Kim DeNero-Ackroyd; Martin Hermes; Diane Hexter; Audrey Hudak; Cynthia Ries; Marilyn Valencia; Antoinette Ponzio

Staff: The Very Rev. Bernard Owens, Dean; The Rev. Canon Adrienne Koch, Canon for Mission and Transformation; Dan Hout-Reilly, Controller

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

Guests: Dave Miano

Absent: Megan Allen-Miller, Priest Associate; Cheryl Williams, Director of Development and Community Programming

- The Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.
- Mark Biddlestone led Vestry in the opening devotional.

Formation

- Dean's Report – Dean Owens
 - Communications Staffing – The position has been accepted Lisa Galek and she will start work at the beginning of December. Dean Owens recommended overlap between her and the interim person.
 - Feasibility Conversations – Expressed his pleasure in the nature of the conversations and the richness of what has been discussed.

Fiduciary Work

- Adoption of Consent Agenda
 - October Meeting Minutes
Beth Billings moved, "to adopt the consent agenda." Marilyn Valencia seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Cannon Koch's Sabbatical

Jeff Spiess shared the request for financial support of Canon Koch during her planned sabbatical. Two documents were provided, a resolution of support, drafted by Jeff Spiess and Beth Billings, and a summary of the focus of her sabbatical by Cannon Koch. Canon Koch explained her anticipated outcomes for the sabbatical. She described the connections to the congregation that will be made via the Cathedral Circle leaders.

Jeff shared that a matching grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio will likely be approved. **Jeff Spiess moved, "to approve \$1,500 to support Canon Adrienne Koch on her sabbatical."** This brings the total of her Trinity funding to \$4,000. **Beth Billings seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

- Treasurer's Report

Melody Hart, Treasurer, submitted the monthly financial reports. Cathedral revenue and operating expenses are favorable to budget. Trinity Commons revenue and expenses are also favorable to budget. Congregational support is below budget, but there is an increase giving for memorial gifts, stained glass, Friendly Inn, and Marion Sterlin. Parking income is lower than budget, because the gates were out of service for a period of time.

The Finance Committee is recommending a capital draw of the endowment of \$81,000.00. An additional \$50,000.00 draw is also being recommended for operations. **Jeff Spiess moved, “to approve an endowment draw of \$131,000.00 with \$81,000.00 for capital improvements and \$50,000 for the additional draw. Cynthia Ries seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

The Vestry also discussed the draft budget for 2026. Melody provided context to the draft. Dan Hout-Reilly, Controller, discussed the budgeting process and how the 2026 budget differs from the 2025 budget. He shared the assumptions in revenues and expenses that were considered in the draft.

- Cathedral Ministries Committee

Kim DeNero-Ackroyd shared that the committee will meet on December 5, 2025, with the plan of finalizing the 2026 Vestry Retreat and discussing the May 2026 Mission Team Retreat.

- Property & Sustainability

Mark Biddlestone and Dave Miano discussed how the committee planned for the capital expenses in 2026. Dave presented the budget planner for the committee. Expenses are outlined by estimated expense, projected Trinity Cathedral portion, and projected diocesan portion. The planner looks forward to several years and includes funds spent, funds allocated and not spent, and recommended amounts for approval. He further detailed projects completed, scheduled, and recommended.

The committee is also developing an Operations-Maintenance Budget Planner. The goal of the planner is to help anticipate expenses that may come up and provide a pathway to addressing those needs. Vestry members requested adding the spreadsheets to the Dropbox for further review. Clarifying questions were offered.

- Stewardship Update

Cynthia Ries provided the stewardship reports for November. She shared the updated dashboard. To date, there are 17 new pledges. Follow up contact with households that have not yet pledged will occur over the coming weeks. Discussion and clarifying questions occurred.

- Nominating Committee Update

Kim DeNero-Ackroyd shared that there is an anticipation of seven candidates for four seats. This means a contested election will be held this year. Through the process, conversations have revealed potential leadership roles for individuals within the congregational structure.

Generative Work

- Cathedral Hall Update

Dean Owens shared that a proposal has been received by Marous Brothers. The bishop will also need to have approval of the proposal. The proposal was included in the Vestry Dropbox for review. Jeff Spiess reviewed the process of discernment that the Vestry has conducted thus far. He expressed the need to discuss funding of the project, should Vestry approve the proposal. Dean Owens asked Melody Hart, Treasurer, to explore financing options. He also provided additional people with whom she may consult to have a broader picture of pathways to finance the project. Additional clarifying questions and conversation occurred. **Jeff Spiess moved, “to approve the Cathedral Hall proposal, contingent on the bishop’s approval and appropriate financing plan.” Audrey Hudak seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

- Capital Campaign Update

Cynthia Ries provided the general development update that is prepared by Cheryl Williams, Director of Development and Community Engagement. Dean Owens shared that the title for the campaign, should Vestry approve the campaign, will be *Honoring Our Legacy, Growing Our Love*. Discussions have occurred with individuals that have shown interest in the project and may be willing to pledge lead gifts. He offered considerations of what Vestry may wish to plan in terms of financing the project via gifts and endowment. An early March 2026 launch is planned. The goal and theme will be revealed formally at that time, while explaining the case for the campaign.



Strategic Work

- Named Endowment Funds – Dean Owens recommended tabling the topic due to time constraints at the meeting.
 - Broad Categories

Closing Prayer

Mark Biddlestone led Vestry in a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting: December 16, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Darrell Lausche, Clerk of Vestry

