



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

Present:

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

*Staff:* The Very Rev. Bernard Owens, Dean; The Rev. Canon Adrienne Koch, Canon for Mission and Transformation; Cheryl Williams, Director of Development and Community Programming

*Appointed Officers:* Melody Hart, Treasurer

*Absent:* Darrell Lausche, Clerk of Vestry, Kim DeNero-Ackroyd

- The Vestry meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.
- Cynthia Ries led Vestry in the opening devotional.

Formation

- Dean's Report
  - Recruiting Trip for Priest Associate – Dean Owens visited Berkely Divinity School and encountered several potential candidates; 3 initial interviews have been held, with in-person interviews being scheduled in March.
  - Sabbatical Prep – Dean Owens reviewed plans for pulpit supply and other issues surrounding his absence, and what issues are “Dean-dependent.”
  - Ginger Bitikofer Retirement, January 2026 – Dean Owens discussed how to celebrate Ginger's ministry as well as how to plan for seamlessness and growth in the areas she has been involved in.

Fiduciary Work

- Adoption of Consent Agenda
  - January Meeting Minutes
  - February 2, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes
  - Key Bank Signers Resolution
  - Karnok Account Signatories Resolution

**John Chapman moved, “to adopt the consent agenda.” Martin Hermes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

- Treasurer's Report – Melody Hart

Melody reviewed the financial statements for the Cathedral, which is generally on budget to this point; any variances are because of large items that are budgeted over the year. The Commons budget includes one large event for an outside group; again, any variances to this point are due to timing.

- Cathedral Ministries Committee – Canon Adrienne Koch

- Vestry Retreat, March 7-8, 2025, at Bellwether Farm – Canon Koch reviewed the tentative schedule and food and beverage plans
- Mission Team Retreat, May 18, 2025, in the Gallery – Will include skills-building and goal-setting.
- Vestry Assignments
  - Dean Owens reviewed the core committees and mission team responsibilities for Vestry members; most people will remain in their current positions; John Chapman will serve on Congregational Life Mission Team and Marilyn Valencia will serve as Co-Chair of Finance Committee.
- Parochial Report
  - Dean Owens reviewed the report; one change from prior years is the addition of average attendance on-line. He reviewed the categories of people involved at the Cathedral. Average Sunday attendance, for example, increased by about 5%, but on-line attendance decreased somewhat. Discussion regarding livestreaming services and events ensued. **Beth Billings moved to “approve the report.” Jeff Spiess seconded the motion. The motion approved unanimously.**
- Property & Sustainability – Mark Biddlestone
  - Mark reviewed the ongoing projects, especially refinishing the doors.
- Annual Meeting Follow-up – Dean Owens
  - Discussion occurred about the meeting, including the shared 10:00 service. Comments were generally positive, though the length of the meeting was concerning.

#### Generative Work

- Considering Guilds – Dean Owens introduced the potential benefits of expanding service-oriented guilds in the life of the Cathedral, especially in those areas that are less clergy-dependent. Examples of active guilds now include the urban farm and flower guild. Brainstorming ideas included hospitality, nooks & crannies, property & sustainability, audiovisual, history, homeless ministry, outreach, vergers, and lectors. Further discussion ensued and will be ongoing.
- Cathedral Hall – Cynthia Ries reviewed that the Major Gifts Committee is working on the scope of the campaign. Improvements to Cathedral Hall is a project that generates energy and interest. The committee will be honing specifics and balancing achievable campaign goals.

#### Strategic Work

- Major Gifts Campaign – Dean Owens reviewed the question of whether the vestry will commit to proceeding with projects based on pledged gifts even before the pledge has been fulfilled. Several points on both sides of the issue were discussed. The proposed Gift Acceptance Policy was presented for review for final consideration at the March 18, 2025, meeting.

#### Closing Prayer

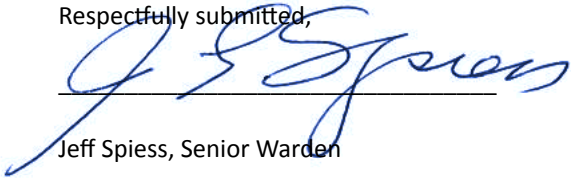
Cynthia Ries led the Vestry in a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.



Next Vestry Meeting: March 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Spiess, Senior Warden

