

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the St. David s Vestry
August 22, 2023

Members present: Senior Warden Ann Jinkins, Junior Warden Jennifer Scariano, Treasurer Merrell Anne Shearer, Clerk Jim Norman, Bess Carsner, John Crow, Peni Ellis, Allison Marshall, Rick Patrick, Alison Riemersma, Joe Sanchez, and George Zwicker.

Participating via Zoom teleconference: Rev. Angela Cortiñas, Phillip Owen.

Clergy and staff present: Rev. Dr. Chuck Treadwell (Rector), Rev. Kristin Braun, Jim Lamm, and new Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy Dianne Hardy-Garcia, as guest.

Meeting began at 6:30 PM.

Fr. Chuck led the group in the first half of Compline.

Introduction to Dianne Hardy-Garcia

Fr. Chuck introduced our new Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy. Dianne told the group a bit about herself and received a warm welcome by the vestry members.

Review of Minutes from Last Vestry Meeting

Jim Norman moved for approval of the minutes from the July 25 meeting of the Vestry. No one had any comments, and the minutes were approved as presented.

Finance Committee Report – presented by Merrell Anne

- Main checking account balance = \$675,630.42.
- Construction loan – the new balance is \$1,444,680.75. We can expect a final amount of \$2,238,300 after we have made all payments to contractors.
- Annual budget – We are behind the 2023 annual budget for pledges by 10%, or \$119,890. Pledge gifts are expected to catch up in the fall, especially when we return to the historic sanctuary and in response to the 175th anniversary celebrations.
- Hospitality income continues to increase since last year. Expenses have increased with increased hospitality activities. The financial reports show an amount of \$18,000 for an electricity bill. Part of this increase over the normal amount is for the new charging

stations in the garage for the Cruise self-driving electric vehicle stations; we will receive reimbursement for the bill.

- Our net intake through the end of June shows a deficit of \$162,924.57.
- 2022 Audit—Jim Lamm reported that our auditor had a question about the Employee Retention Tax Credit—whether we qualified for the entire amount of the money. The auditor’s theory was that we may not have qualified because the governor exempted churches from gathering restrictions and we could have continued to have services. Jim believes we did qualify because of all the employees that were kept on payroll for the parish’s various activities other than services and due to loss of income. For now, the amount in question will be listed as a liability in the audit, and if appropriate, a correction will be made later once the issue is sorted out.

The Junior Warden’s Report – presented by Jennifer Scariano

Holy Grounds – the Holy Grounds remodeling is complete.

Office Renovations – this remodeling project is also complete.

Main Lobby – renovation of the main lobby is complete.

School Playground – the playground turf and plants have been installed.

Garage Elevators – the elevator renovations are now complete.

New Garage Sign on Trinity—

- Metropolis, the garage operator, has received a quote to replace the vertical “St. David’s Garage” sign at the garage entrance on Trinity Street. The total cost is \$5,720. Metropolis will pay for half, and the church will pay the other half from the Garage Repairs fund. The current sign is broken in places and needs to be replaced.

Historic Sanctuary Renovation Update—

- The refinished pews have been installed.
- The bell clapper and bell rope wheel have been installed.
- The renovation of the marble reredos at the back of the sanctuary is now complete.
- Work on the street-level retaining walls around the outside of the church is complete.
- The clear storm windows covering the stained glass on the north and west sides are in. The project is complete.
- Refinished doors are back on the east and west side doors of the church. This project is also complete.

- The new sound system and three cameras for live streaming and recording are installed and being configured and tested. Status is “mostly completed”—the contractor, QA, has re-configured the livestreaming equipment to the new virtual local area network created by our IT company for better speeds. Also, Jaffe Holden, AV Consultant, will be here in September to do a final review and balancing.
- The organ console is back and looks great. The organ pipes and console are slowly being installed. Tuning will occur after all the pipes and new console is installed. Hopefully all will be finished by 8/25.

Landscape committee—

- Met on August 1. The committee is making plans to have the trees trimmed.
- A church cleanup day is planned for October 7.

Rector s Report – presented by Fr Chuck.

- Fr. Chuck continues to improve from his back surgery on July 5.
- Fr. Bob Gribble fell and broke his shoulder but should ultimately return to full health.
- Presiding Bp. Michael Curry was recently hospitalized again and underwent surgery. He was expected to be released today, but there has been no update in the last few hours.
- Next to New – Executive Director Ulrike Miller is on an extended absence under the Family Medical Leave Act. The Next to New board of directors has decided to hire an interim ED.
 - The finances of the store needed to be clarified. The church gave N2N a temporary loan and expects to be repaid by the end of the year. Nothing underhanded was involved with the finances; the reporting simply needed to be put in good order.
 - The entire air conditioner system will need to be replaced soon. It appears to be the original system. An interim repair will be made in the meantime. Having the AC in working order is especially important this summer, which is on track to be the hottest on record.
- Staff retreat – the church’s Program staff had a retreat the past two days. They discussed the parish’s core values and were briefed by the Downtown Austin Alliance about future development plans for the city.
- August 13 Welcome Home Sunday
 - After a year of renovations to the Historic Sanctuary, the space opened to a return of the parish on Sunday, August 13. The church celebrated a single 10:30 am

service in place of the usual 9:00 and 11:15 am services. Attendance was very high, and members were delighted with the improvements. The annual Ministry Fair took place in Bethell Hall after the service. Many thanks to the church staff, who worked very hard leading up to the weekend—especially Jim Lamm, Michael Holder, and Taylor Cloyd—but also the entire staff.

Old/New Business

- 175th Anniversary Celebration
 - Crosses made from reclaimed wood are now for sale.
 - Planning for the celebration continues apace.
- Joe asked that the Vestry take up the topic of the Land Acknowledgement Statement by the November meeting at the latest.
- Flowers for the Feast of St. David celebration on October 22—Ann gave a report on the cost of the flowers, which the Vestry had previously agreed to pay for.
- Approval of designated gift for community engagement and outreach – the parish received a donation \$20,500 for the purpose of community engagement and outreach. While the gift was given for a certain purpose, the church must still seek Vestry action to designate the gift for that purpose. The following motion was presented and duly seconded:
 - WHEREAS, St. David's received a gift in the form of a grant in the amount of \$20,500, which was designated for Community Engagement;*
 - NOW THEREFORE, the Vestry hereby resolves as follows:*
 - RESOLVED, that the Vestry hereby approves accepting this grant for the stated designated purpose of allocating the funds to Community Engagement.*
- The Vestry approved the motion unanimously.
- Fr. Kristin had further investigated the \$5,000 check from the Diocese that she discussed at the last vestry meeting. This was a grant from the Diocese meant to help migrants from across the border with Mexico for the purpose of “feeding and education.” Kristin contacted the organization in Brownsville that St. David’s had been working with—Team Brownsville—and confirmed that their mission continues to involve feeding migrants. Because the Diocese designated the \$5,000 for this purpose, the money will be sent to Team Brownsville as originally planned.
- October Bishop’s visit and Feast of St. David on October 22

- We will celebrate the Feast of St. David on Sunday, October 22. Bishop Andy Doyle will attend. A celebration of “community partners” will take place the evening of Monday, the 23rd, at Tarry House.
- World of Music Event – St. David’s will present a concert of World Music will take place in the Historic Sanctuary on September 10. KUT Radio and the Downtown Alliance of Austin are partners in the production.



Upcoming Dates

- Downtown Austin Alliance ribbon-cutting for reopening of historic sanctuary: September 14.
- Next Finance Committee meeting: September 20 at 6 pm.
- Next Executive Committee meeting: September 21 at 5 pm.
- Next vestry meeting: September 26 at 6:30 pm.
- The October vestry meeting will be on Monday, October 30, at 6:30 pm, instead of October 31.

Chuck led the group in Compline s closing prayers, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Norman

Clerk