

Meeting of the Trinity Cathedral Vestry  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
June 21, 2022

Members in attendance: Dean Amy Meaux, Susan Borne', George Morledge, John Milwee, Steve Bethel, Mary Margaret Wippo, Susan Mehlburger, Grant Wallace, Marcia Wayland, Lara Shock, Christopher Keller, Susan Allen, Melissa Whitfield, Sarah Henry.  
Others present: Mary Hodges, Jeanie Toombs, Jack Dowling, Colin MacKnight, Sub Dean Lisa Cory, Christy Poindexter and Thomas Becker (Dean Amy's guest).

The meeting began with an opening prayer by Dean Meaux. She presented May's minutes for approval. The motion to accept the minutes was made by George Morledge and seconded by Melissa Whitfield. Motion was approved by all present with no discussion.

**New Business:** Dean Meaux reported that the remodeling of the bathrooms in Keller House is in progress.

The Insights Committee update includes a proposal for two (2) major/national speakers to present an educational series with a focus on adult education and the spiritual development of children. Potential speakers include Sissy Goff, David Thomas and possibly Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. There is also discussion of a mini lecture series to include Reverend Stuart Hoke and other speakers from Little Rock.

Master Plan update: Dean Meaux has a meeting next week with Sarah Bennings to further discuss the cobblestone walkway.

Children Youth Director update: More interviews are scheduled for next week.

There are ongoing plans for the fall convention ministry which will focus on addressing mental health in the youth.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) was a success with 50 children registered.

Bishop Benfield announced his retirement for fall 2024. This allows for a "call for election" for his successor. More to come on this.

**Endowment Request:** Colin MacKnight presented two (2) requests for consideration. The first was for \$1000.00 for a targeted children's advertising on Facebook end of July/August for the 2022/23 season. After discussion, Grant Wallace made a motion to approve this request. This was seconded by Susan Allan, and all voted in favor of the motion.

The second request was for \$21,900.00 to initiate a contract with Red River Pipe Organ Co. of Norman Ok to do repairs on the organ. This work includes console upgrade, revoicing the Flute Harmonic and tuning and repairs to the organ. This work goes beyond the routine maintenance of the organ. The Harmonic Flute is currently not performing as it was designed to perform. The console is atypical and not very efficient. The spacing between the pedals is not adequate as some are spaced too close to each other. A pedal divide is required for better spacing and to make it more efficient.

It was discussed that in 2016, \$50,000 was spent to upgrade the current organ. Grant asked if any of these modifications were included in that upgrade. It appears these were not included in that upgraded. Marcia asked if the temperature affected the functionality of the organ.

Colin stated that as the AC in the church was on 24/7, temperature did not contribute to the issues above. Routine tuning of the organ occurs every 2 years, full tuning is scheduled for every 5 years. Christopher made a motion to approve this request. Grant seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

**ECEP update:** Christi reported that the program received \$177,500 in grant money from 2 of 3 grants submitted. This money will be used for technology improvement, supplies, special development, salaries, subs and rent. This is no report on the expansion grant.

One teacher has obtained her national certification.

Christy referred to the letter that was sent to parents relating to abuse and unprofessional behavior to some teachers that led to a DHS investigation of the ECEP program. As a follow up to this investigation, teachers attended a zoom training last week and there is another one scheduled for this Thursday. She thought the teachers were very engaged with the content presented.

One teacher was terminated for negative behavior and attitude. Christy stated that there is conflict among some of the teachers. An action item to address some of these issues is for each teacher to reapply for her job. At that time, there will be a review of the job description with each teacher and clear expectations of the role outlined. Susan Allen questioned the quality of the applicants hired. Christi stated that recruiting was challenging. Currently the ratio of children to each teacher exceeds the State's recommendations.

Another action item is to have better documentation of issues brought forward and to include how they are resolved. Upon review of previous issues, documentation is very limited. A review of best practices of other ECEP programs was recommended.

As the Vestry is the Governing Board for ECEP, Grant made a motion to require the ECEP Steering Committee to do a review of best practices by October 1, 2022, and to report at the October Vestry Meeting. Chris seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Sub Dean update:** Reverend Cory reported that there were some challenges this month. She asked us to reflect on the following words and what they mean to us: relationship, love, limitations, dis-ease, knowledge, responsiveness, commitment, hope and conviction.

**Junior Warden's update:** Mary Margaret reported on the leak in Baker Parlor which resulted from the coil rusting. They are waiting on a quote for the repairs.

Dean's Hall is ready to be painted. Mary spoke with the painter today; they are looking at paint and scheme colors. When started, they anticipate completion within 2-3 months.

Nails and screws were found in the children's' playground and they were vacuumed today. Ice guards have been installed on the Cathedral's roof.

There is a sewer issue in Mitchell House. One of the bathrooms is out of order and will be out for some time. The sewage line has collapsed, and the team is unsure of the direction of the sewer lines. A contractor is coming to assist in assessing where the line goes.

Four to five (4-5) years ago, Dr. Reverend Chris Keller and Mary Hodges contracted with Central Water to have the sewer line for Higgins and Hodges Hall rerouted either in front of or behind both buildings for \$60,000. With the current sewer line issues on the property, there is

discussion on whether to repair this line as is until we build another building and then do the rerouting at that time. More to come on this issue.

**Financial update:** Grant reported that the ECEP program had a healthy average month for May with a positive \$1400 balance.

Cathedral: May was another average month incurring expenses of \$86,000. Some of these expenses include work done to Dean's Hall. There was a negative \$70,000 for May with (30%) allocated to the repairs to Dean's Hall.

There was a health insurance review for ECEP which shows a 22.8% increase in cost. There is ongoing conversation on whether to continue with the insurance or not. With no further discussion, George made a motion to approve the financial report. This was seconded by Steve, and all voted in favor of the motion.

Dean Meaux reminded us that Sunday August 8, 2022, is the anniversary of the fire and that we will celebrate the reopening of Dean's Hall that day.

There is no meeting in July. Dean Meaux will communicate with us if there are issues that need our attention.

George made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Susan and approved by all. Reverend Cory led the group in a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Next Meetings:

Financial Committee: August 11, 2022, at 4:15 pm

Executive Committee: August 11, 2022, at 4:45 PM

Vestry: August 16, 2022, at 5:30 PM

Respectfully submitted.

Melonese Clarke  
Clerk.