

**Trinity Episcopal Cathedral**  
**Vestry Minutes**  
**December 21, 2017**

The following are the members of the 2017 Vestry. Names marked with an asterisk were present.

**Vestry:**

*Wallis Bond	Mary McKissock
*Walter Chastain	*Ryan Newton
*David Danforth, Senior Warden	*Peter Shand
Susie Dibble	*Llewellyn Shealy
*Walter Edgar	*Andy Slaughter
Margie Heggie Estefano	*Judy Cotchett Smith, Clerk
*Ben Grimsley	*Jonathan Vipperman
*Phil Johnston, Junior Warden	*Ray Weston
*Robert Key	David Wolff
*Brian Kvam	*Belton Zeigler
*Norah Grimball, Past Senior Warden	

**Invited Representatives:**

*Dan Fritze, Chancellor	*Scotty Frantz, Daughters of the Holy Cross
Mark James, Trinity Foundation	*Liz Summers, Treasurer
*Ed Hickman, Still Hopes Representative	

**Staff:**

*The Very Rev. Timothy Jones, Dean	*The Rev. Canon Patsy Malanuk
*The Rev. Canon Dorian Del Priore	The Rev. Ira Houck
Donald Benson, Canon for Administration	*The Rev. Canon Andrew Grosso

**I. Opening Prayer**

Dean Jones opened the meeting at 6:37 p.m. with the prayer used during the stewardship season.

**II. Approval of the November Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2017 were approved by acclamation.

**III. Report of the Executive Committee**

David Danforth reported that there were approximately 60 additional pledges received following the calls made by the Vestry last month. More are still needed. While many parishioners demonstrated an increase in their total pledge amount from 2017 to 2018, Tim Jones and David Danforth encouraged the Vestry to prayerfully consider increasing their pledges even more to draw closer to the budget needs of the church.

David added additional information on the following:

Security: an off-duty officer is present each Sunday from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm on foot patrol observing all doors, following strict guidelines.

Trinity Center: all construction bids received on December 1 were over budget. Alternative plans to bring costs down are being made with the help of a committee of resource personnel.

Kitchen: funding from a potential donor to cover the cost of the kitchen project looks promising. A committee of users will help design the renovations with the help of an architect.

TLC: a new member of the board is being proposed. The Vestry approved the election of Nat Baker to the TLC board.

Annual Meeting: the date for the meeting has been set for January 28, 2018.

#### **IV. Committee and Other Reports**

##### **A. Finance Committee**

In David Wolff's absence, Treasurer Liz Summers reported on the Finance Committee that met the previous night. The following highlights were reported:

TLC: with a small tuition increase, the TLC is budgeting to break even.

Pledges: total to date is behind last year in dollars and in number of pledges.

Budget: remains \$189,000 short of the need so far. With a full complement of clergy, the budget will be tighter in the coming year.

Brokerage accounts: Finance Committee recommends that the Vestry approve its recommendation to consolidate its multiple brokerage accounts into one account for cost effectiveness and efficiency reasons. It is projected to save approximately \$10,000 per year. The Vestry approved the recommendation and deputized the Finance Committee to select the single entity.

##### **1. Report of the Treasurer**

###### Balance Sheet

The operating cash checking account balance went deeper into the red with a month-end balance (\$167,025). The Cathedral continues to rely upon the Restricted Accounts' positive cash balance to pay some of its monthly expenses. There have been no draws against the \$1 million line of credit during 2017 and we have been out of the line for 14 months. The Due To Trinity Forward liability was \$233,277 at November 30, 2017. This Due To account will be reduced as Trinity Forward payments restricted to Debt Service are received, and it can be drawn from again as it is needed for Trinity Forward projects.

###### Income Statement

Total Revenues for the month of November were \$234,577, making year-to-date revenues \$2,554,812. Contribution Revenues at November 30 were \$96,837 ahead of November 2016's year-to-date total. Expenses for November 2017 were down from prior months to a more normal

level at \$229,150. Year-to-date expenses of \$4,571,616 remain below budget due to lower actual personnel expenses than were budgeted. November net income was \$5,427, bringing year-to-date net loss to (\$16,803).

#### Restricted Funds

Inflows in November were related to prepaid pledges and Friends of Music deposits. Outflows were Friends of Music and Basketball program payments.

#### The Cathedral Shop

The Cathedral Shop experienced seasonal sale surge and made a profit in November of \$1,186. Its year-to-date net loss through November is (\$12,178).

#### Trinity Learning Center

The TLC had a net loss for November, bringing the year-to-date loss to (\$23,647). This is a significant change from last year when the profit in the TLC was \$16,061 through November. Revenues are down year-to-year while salaries and group insurance expenses are up.

#### Trinity Forward Campaign

As of November 30, 2017, there was \$1,441,826 of cash in the Trinity Forward account. In addition, the Due From Operating has a balance of \$233,277, which may be drawn upon as needed for Trinity Forward projects. Contributions in November totaled \$27,266, and year-to-date contributions totaled \$355,718. Year-to-date campaign outflows were \$111,910.

### **B. Update from the Canon for Parish Life**

Canon Dorian Del Priore provided an update on some of the activities he is engaging in. The YAMS (Young Adults Married and Single) is meeting on the second Tuesday each month and may consider one other gathering. He is planning "Moveable Feast," a small dinner group around theologically themed topics. Another possibility being considered is "Dinner with Strangers," small dinner parties in host homes that can prompt conversation among parishioners who are not otherwise acquainted.

### **C. Membership & Newcomers**

Llewellyn Shealy reported that Allison Cox is quite excited to be working with Dorian. She directed attention to the written report previously distributed.

### **D. Nominations**

Norah Grimball described the process undertaken by the Nominating Committee to discern the advantages of electing by a nominated slate or by a contested election. After much discussion of the pros and cons of each, the decision of the committee was to offer the slate for Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Vestry, Foundation, and Diocesan Delegates and Alternates as presented. The list with each candidate's photograph and outline of experiences will be published in the Tidings on December 26, with election

on January 28, 2018 at the Annual Meeting. Nominees from the floor must be submitted by one week prior to the election. Following lengthy discussion among Vestry members about the process and the advisability of presenting a slate, the Vestry approved the nominations as presented. The consensus expressed was that the slate consists of strong, talented individuals who possess the experience that is currently needed on the Vestry. Dean Jones noted that David Danforth will chair the nomination process next year and will have an opportunity to consider an alternative election process next year.

**E. Pastoral Care**

In presenting his written report, Andy Slaughter expressed his gratitude for the new Canon for Parish Life who will be joining Trinity next month.

**F. Strategic Plan and Shift**

Tim Jones reminded the Vestry of the journey of study through the book Shift that began at the February 2017 Vestry Retreat and continued monthly with reports and discussion. Canon Grosso will consider ways to incorporate Shift into his plans for formation.

Andrew Grosso described his 2018 Strategic Visioning Goals document as a compilation of thoughts about future goals since Trinity's current strategic plan has largely concluded following two five-year cycles of action that began in 2008. He proposes that we begin a new visioning plan after telling the congregation what the outcomes of our past years' work.

He suggested the Vestry let him know via email how Shift has been helpful. Suggestions made were to expand the reading to the whole congregation through small groups or by an "All Trinity Read." Many urged that something specific be done after all the time and attention spent on the book and the excitement generated initially. It should not be allowed to just dwindle in interest until some other new idea emerges.

**V. Dean's Report**

Patsy Malanuk reported on the Justice Ministry project, which has settled on two problems to research: access to education and access to mental health services. In early March, about 500 Justice Ministry members from churches throughout the Midlands will gather at Trinity for a "rally" to be followed by another gathering at St. Luke's in April.

Dean Jones reported that Trinity will host a Martin Luther King tribute service on January 14 at 4 p.m. Homilies will be presented by Trinity parishioner Jay Richardson, the prosecutor at the Dylann Roof trial, and Pastor Eric Manning of Emmanuel Church in Charleston. The Voorhees College Choir will participate.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be present on January 17 for the All Our Children convocation.

The Trinity Foundation will host a wine and cheese reception on March 18 with a focus on developing planned giving.

The Lenten Series will consist of several outstanding speakers: Bishop George Sumner; The Rev. Daniel P. Matthews, former rector of Trinity Wall Street; The Rev. Paul Roberts Abernathy; and Mary Parmer, consultant on newcomer and hospitality issues in churches. Ms. Parmer will also lead an all-day workshop on March 17 on assimilating newcomers.

The Annual Report is being prepared for the Annual Meeting with more bulleted information, graphics and photographs.

Communications Director Addie Thompson will be on maternity leave in March and preparation is being made to assure that our communications remain seamless. Staff is engaged in ways to improve the communication in the service bulletins, including Prayer Book page numbers and the like.

The Rev. Tina Lockett will begin as the Canon for Pastoral Care in January. Discussion continued about improving communication with the congregation at large, including awareness of the numbers of lay people who serve on committees, using their names and photographs, including the Vestry. Why not proactively address questions that we know are of concern to people, such as “why have a slate of Vestry candidates instead of a contested election?” We could have told the congregation in advance about why we decided to print a complete program instead of using the Prayer Book. We should consider providing the Vestry with nametags to wear that identify each Vestry member like we do ushers.

Ryan Newton reminded the Vestry of the Epiphany Oyster Roast hosted by the Men of Trinity on January 7.

David concluded by saying 800 new Hymnals have been donated and will be in pews on Christmas Eve.

VI. Closing Prayer

Tim concluded with prayer at 8:31 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Judy Cotchett Smith  
Clerk