

Episcopal Cathedral of St. Paul: Chapter Minutes

Date: 01/16/2024

Convene Time: 5:30 PM

Clergy:

Present: Dean Nicola Dance

Officers:

Senior Warden Phyllis Melton; Junior Warden Duane Sand; Clerk Jolene Phelps; Treasurer Henry Harmon

Class of 2024

Present: Phyllis Melton, Jolene Phelps, Duane Sand

Excused: Abigail Allard

Class of 2025

Present: Stephanie Morrison, Stephanie Murphy, Tom Smith, John Wetherell

Class of 2026

Present: Nathan Brown, Sam Hutchisson, Rosa Walker

Excused: Betsy Van Haaften

Opening Reflection: Three reflections with questions discussed in small groups

1. January 15, 2024 was a federal holiday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day. “The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists, who are dedicated to justice, peace, and brotherhood. The trailblazers in human, academic, scientific, and religious freedom have always been nonconformists. In any cause that concerns the progress of mankind, put your faith in the nonconformist!”
-- Martin Luther King, Jr., civil-rights leader (15 Jan 1929-1968)
2. Bishop Monnot is currently in London, UK, and recently visited Holy Trinity Brompton, which encouraged me to check in the “HTB” online. Here’s a little of what I found:
“Holy Trinity Brompton with St. Paul’s, Onslow Square and St. Augustine’s, South Kensington, often referred to simply as HTB, is an Anglican church in London England. The most recent major modification was during the 1980s when the crypt was rebuilt to provide meeting rooms and the space for the bookshop. Also during this time, the pews were removed and replaced with chairs to allow greater flexibility in seating arrangements, which became imperative as take-up of the Alpha Course grew.”
3. St. Paul’s Community Conversations were held in early 2020, before the pandemic shutdown, on the vision for future purpose and uses of St. Paul’s undercroft. St. Paul’s Vision Task Force worked diligently in 2022 and developed a goal of doubling worship attendance in two years. A parish Census was held in summer 2023 that has generated new ministers in various areas of parish life.

After reading the reflections, the small groups were asked to consider and discuss the following:

- What is the role of the church in Iowa in 2024?
- What is the role of St. Paul’s in Iowa in 2024?
- What is my role in St. Paul’s in 2024?

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After discussion, the following prayer was voiced from the Book of Common Prayer:

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Business Agenda:

- **December 2023 Minutes** – Moved for approval by Sam Hutchisson, with a second from Rosa Walker. Motion approved.
- **December 2023 Financial Report** – There was not a financial report as the December Community Foundation report had not been received. The December financial statement will appear in the annual meeting materials. The following insights were shared with the chapter.
 - We are currently solvent – December bills have been paid and it appears there are funds for January bills.
 - Henry Harmon's term as Treasurer will end January 28. The Chapter is again looking for a 2024 Treasurer.
 - IRS -- \$12,000 already paid in penalties for 2017 & 2018. Interest of \$492 charged for 2017. A waiver has been submitted and is in process.

Old Business:

- **Renovation – Motion by Executive Committee:**
Approve placement of an order for the air handler, a key component of the new mechanical system, that requires up to 20 weeks lead time, at a cost of approximately \$100,000"
 - Discussion
 - Timing is critical to make sure there is heating and cooling when needed to protect the sanctuary, organ and gatherings
 - Renovation money for this first part is available in unrestricted funds
 - Potential of grants from new government program becoming available for energy improvements – Stephanie Murphy will investigate
 - Question called by Jolene Phelps; second by Stephanie Morrison; motion passed
 - Executive Committee motion passed as presented.

New Business:

- **Dean's report** (*Please see Addendum 1 for full report*)
 - Meetings continue with Bridge and area Clergy with an interview on Iowa Catholic Radio.
 - IT specialist candidate Nathan Brown as a staff position
 - Question posited regarding conflict of interest for staff position and being on the Chapter.
 - Stephanie Morrison reviewed canons and St. Paul's by-laws and discovered there is no conflict of interest.

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- Motion by Stephanie Murphy; second by Duane Sand to accept Nathan Brown for the staff position of IT specialist. Motion passed.
- Nathan will recuse himself as a Chapter member from voting on IT questions.
- 1885 Building –considerations and conversations
- Diocese of Iowa
 - Letter from St. Paul’s Executive Committee to Ways and Means explaining Stewardship Share (see Addendum 2)
 - Bishop’s Visitation 4/14/2024
 - Bishop Monnot will attend, preside and preach -- The Great Vigil of Easter (3/30/2024) and Pentecost Sunday (5/19/2024)
- **Macomber Trust Plans for 2024**
 - Submitted request for funds for three mission areas –community conversations, music scholarships and connections café – with a fourth administrative area included.
 - Approach for management of Community Conversations
 - Issue RFP to organizations to partner with St. Paul’s to provide speakers focused on justice issues and concerns that reflect values of St. Paul
 - Duane is approaching the following with an RFP for whom they might consider: Interfaith Green Coalition, Greater Des Moines Partnership; AMOS
 - St. Paul’s provides the venue and some funding; partner provides the speaker and network for publicity, marketing and audiences
 - Restrictions are part of RFP which include no advertising of products or sales, no political party partisanship, considerate language and attitude
- **Lift Every Voice in Love – Motion by Executive Committee**

“To allocate up to \$3,000 to support new YMCA programing for underserved children in the city of Des Moines in partnership with the Bridge Churches.”

 - A request was made by the management of Lift Every Voice to Love to contribute funds and/or participate in support of a gala with the goal to fund youth programs at the new YMCA, which is perhaps two years from completion.
 - The request for funding the gala has been made to bridge and area churches.
 - There was some confusion as to the direction of the funds – whether they were to finance the gala announced as the vehicle for a fundraiser, or to contribute directly to the goal or purpose of the fundraiser.
 - The Chapter is committed to the youth of Des Moines and has directed its contribution to the specific purpose of funding programing for underserved youth.
 - Amendment to motion for a change in the contribution from \$3,000 to \$1,000 made by Stephanie Murphy, second by Rosa Walker. Motion approved.
 - Executive committee motion approved as amended.

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- **A Case for Love**
 - The parish is invited to A Case for Love movie at Jordan Creek Movie Theatre on January 23 at 4PM or 7PM.
 - Stephanie Murphy has reserved two tables of 10 for St. Paul parishioners who would like to meet to socialize and/or dine at 6PM between film times at Tavern & Grill in the Jordan Creek mall.

- **Nomination Committee Report**
 - Al Geiger and Duane Sand have agreed to serve a three-year term on the Chapter.
 - Two potential candidates are being interviewed and have yet to confirm.
 - If nominated, John Wetherall has agreed to serve as Clerk.

- **Annual Meeting January 28 after 10:00AM service**
 - It is customary for the Chapter to provide a light lunch prior to the meeting.
 - Stephanie Murphy asked for volunteers for light finger foods and help.

- **Amos: creating effective community leaders to address social justice concerns. St. Paul's is a member.**
 - DART: Rosa Walker attended the meeting held at St. Paul's on 1/11 and has continued to be involved in the discussions Amos participants and city leaders are having which will allow DART to maintain bus service. Sam Hutchinson is also concerned with this issue.
 - Phyllis Melton is working with ReAct – an AMOS group in conversation with the Des Moines Public Schools.

Closing Prayer: Amana Nicola closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Stephanie Morrison, with a second from Thomas Smith. Motion carried.

Adjournment Time: 7:00 PM