

April 19, 2024: participants gathered at 5:30pm for a reflection offered by the Rev Amy Lythgoe, dinner, and a celebration of Eucharist led by Bishop Kym Lucas.

April 20, 2024

Standing Committee Meeting

Present: Darren Armstrong, the Rev. Canon Jon Anderson, Donna Colville, the Rev. Wren Blessing, Nancy Jones, the Rev. Bill Stanton, Karla Schapansky, the Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas, Chip Page, the Rev. Melissa George, the Rev. Amy Lythgoe, the Rev. Canon Vanessa Stickler-Glass, the Rev. Matthew Frey (online), Chip Page (online)

- I. 8:50: Meeting called to order.** The Rev. Bill Stanton opened in prayer.
- II. 9am: Approval of March Minutes:** Donna Colville made a motion to approve the March Standing Committee minutes. Karla Schapansky seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- III. 9:02am: Matthew Frey appointed and approved as Northwest Region Clergy Representative:** Karla Schapansky motions that the Rev. Matthew Frey be appointed and approved as Northwest Region Clergy representative to the Standing Committee to fill a vacancy. Donna Colville seconded the motion. Matthew Frey's term will last until October, 2024 when he will be eligible for election. The motion was unanimously approved.
- IV. 9:05 Treasurer's Report: Nancy Jones**
see balance sheet, preliminary final budget, and congregational giving report
 - A. Notes on income: Congregational giving was exceptionally strong in 2023, which made up for the decrease in income from the Colorado Trust. During 2023, Bishop Kym sent a letter reminding parishes that they have committed to giving 10% to the diocese (an estimated 20-25% of parishes are not reaching that 10% goal).
 - B. Notes on expenses: unexpected expenses included moving expenses and property repair expenses.
 - C. Deficit: the deficit was less than what was expected/budgeted.
 - D. In 2024, \$800,000 was budgeted to be received from the Colorado Trust, however \$981,000 will be received from the Colorado trust. This balances out the deficit that was expected in 2024.
 - E. Discussion: Bishop Kym noted that the office of the Bishop is considering strategies by which the proposed justice and advocacy position might be fully funded. At present, that is still in consideration stage, with a goal to have a firm plan by October, 2024.
 - F. Diocesan Audit: meeting between Canon Jon, Nancy, and auditors is scheduled for 5/21. We expect to come out of that meeting with a plan and schedule. Darren Armstrong articulated his expectation as the president of the Standing Committee that we have been delinquent in completing the audit and the audit must be completed.
 - G. Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Bill Stanton moved that we approve the April 2024 Treasurer's Report. Melissa George seconded the motion. It is unanimously approved.
- V. 9:33: Cathedral Ridge Report: the Rev. John Hill**

- A. Notes: on May 22nd, Abigail Jordan will join the staff as a program director, completing the staff (facilities, operation,), summer staff is hired for the summer, still recruiting CIT (counselors in training)
- B. Overview of areas of ministry for Cathedral Ridge:
 1. Youth Camp: helping kids come to a place where they can have a great time, know the love of God in Jesus Christ, and be themselves
 2. Family Camps: a place where families can retreat from distractions in life and spend time together and with God
 3. Abound Retreats: Adult retreats with various themes and programs
 4. Raising up young people in leadership as a diocese: creating a system of adults who care about and who are invested in the lives of children and a structure of mentorship
 - sense that youth are being abandoned by systems that should serve them, and a desire to be sure that our diocese is supporting kids in their growth, struggles and discernment
 - the need for mentors: adults who care about kids
 - a desire to collaborate with youth ministers and other youth service opportunities to create an ecology of service, learning, worship, and faith formation opportunities for youth
 - Considering the formation of a nine month residential formation program (based in Gooseberry cabin) under the leadership of Abigail Jordan; focused on vocation and on cultivating living faith. Participants would serve at Cathedral Ridge as well as off campus. Seed money of \$300,000 is needed to help establish this in 3-4 years. Ongoing income is needed.
 - John shared about a proposed additional cabins at estimated \$500,000 (the Glenn Site plan) that would allow the camp more income to help fund the Residential Discernment Program. This would provide more youth beds. Goal: 122 youth beds needed to make camp programs financially sustainable; Cathedral Ridge currently has 50-60.

VI. 10:20: Property Report: Canon Jon Anderson

see memo dated 4/20/2024

- A. 281 N Sherman (Colorado Episcopal Service Corps house) – Colorado Episcopal Service Corps ended its ministry/existence at end of August, 2023. In the fall, the property committee decided to sell 281 N. Sherman in the spring. Over the winter, pipes froze, burst, and flooded; 18” water in basement; HVAC system and water heater were flooded; building need to be heated from an external source. At present, church insurance is denying continuing coverage. More than \$40,000 has been spent on repair. The current estimated value of the property is \$854,000.
 1. Bill Stanton moved we the approve up to \$60,000 for remediation/repair and up to \$25,000 for preparing it for sale (to come from the unrestricted reserve). Karla Schapansky seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.
 2. Karla Schapansky moved that we approve Sandy Mazarakis and Stefan Burris of Your Castle Real Estate to represent The Episcopal Church in Colorado in the sale of the house. Donna Colville seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
 3. The status of the mortgage debt still owing on that property was discussed. Canon Jon will present a report at the May Standing Committee Meeting.

- B. The Our Merciful Savior (222 W. 32nd St. Denver, CO): there is no mortgage on this property; the buildings had recent flood damage and is covered by Church Insurance. The boiler in the church and the HVAC in the house are both inoperable. The total property is four lots which could potentially be sold separately. The church building is on at least one historic register, and may be separated from the remaining plots. The Standing Committee may explore the potential of retaining the church building for a community center or for a future worshipping congregation. Some repair/updates to the church building may be required, as well as some fencing.
- C. Update St. Andrews, La Junta: the property committee is considering registering the building with the city of La Junta as vacant; the current (and ongoing) challenge is regarding what to do with the cremains that are now on the site so that the property may possibly be sold. Canon Jon and the property committee are working to ascertain who has authority to decide what is needed in order to move remains.
- D. Church Insurance: the executive board will consider the value of continuing with Church Insurance given our recent experience of inconsistency service.
- E. Columbaria and Cemeteries: need to address that if a church/congregation closes, those buried on site will need to be moved. We want to make sure congregations know the best practices for columbaria and cemeteries, including notifying those to be buried of that possibility..
- F. The Rev. Lauren Grubaugh Thomas is in the process of planting a congregation in a planned community called Sterling Ranch, near Centennial. Canon Jon is overseeing the logistics of this plant, which is funded by grant money.

VII. 10:55 - Bishop Kym's Report

- A. Goal: to take data/information gathered from “imagining meetings” and from Mission Leadership Review interviews to create a two-year strategic plan.
- B. Notes the overall health of the Episcopal Church in Colorado, which includes financial health, engagement, lay pastoral leader training, Caffeinated Church, and congregations with strong lay and clergy leadership. The group discussed resources available to relieve pressure experienced by clergy in burnout.
- C. Title IV Complaints: when complaints are submitted to an intake officer, we must carry out a process to follow up on that complaint. The diocesan staff is in conversation with Chancellor Larry Hitt to consider what we can do to avoid nuisance and unfounded Title IV complaints and what the mechanism is to stop further expensive work in the face of specious complaints.
- D. Dreaming about the Episcopal High School of the Rockies – a possible boarding school based in our diocese; a feasibility study would be funded by an individual and member of the diocese who has a passion for secondary education.

- VIII. 11:17: Executive Session** The Standing Committee commenced Executive Session, which continued until 11:55pm.
- IX. 11:55: Bishop Election Consents:** The Rev. Bill Stanton moved that the committee exit Executive Session. Karla Schapansky seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- A. Donna Colville moved to approve the election of Kara Wagner Sherer as Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester. Karla Schapansky seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - B. Donna Colville moved to consent to the Suffragan Bishop election in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas. Karla Schapansky seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- X. 12:02pm:** The Rev. Bill Stanton moved to adjourn the meeting, Karla Schapansky seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Wren Blessing