

Friday, November 15, 2024:

Standing Committee Retreat Minutes

Present: Chip Page, Darren Armstrong, Matthew Frey, Chris Dietzenerger, Melissa George, Chuck Theobald, Donna Colville, Karla Schapansky, Wren Blessing (recording); Canon Jon Anderson, Canon Mike Orr, Canon Vanessa Stickler-Glass, Canon Greg Foraker, Bishop Kym Lucas, Bill Stanton

3:08 – Opening Actions - President Darren Armstrong called the meeting to order.

- Agenda approved – Chris moved, Chip seconded. The agenda was approved unanimously.
- The committee reviewed the minutes; Donna moved to approve the minutes, Chuck Theobald seconded; Karla Schapansky – amended the motion to include those who moved and approved minutes from September. The October minutes were unanimously accepted as amended.

3:15 - Financial Report: Nancy Jones

Nancy shared that pledges are coming in ahead of what is budgeted, and the income from the Colorado Trust is higher than what was budgeted. Income is \$161,440

Some expenses are running slightly over budget, in part due to timing of expense: this includes travel, operational (audit), IT Network Maintenance and Support; Clergy Conference (consistently runs over)

- It was noted that it is a priority to understand why clergy conference is consistently exceeding budget. (There should be an effort to manage the expenses against the budget.)

The deficit sits at about \$41,000 less than budgeted deficit.

- Audit Update: At the end of 2024, the office of the Bishop will be up to date with audits (having previously been three years behind). The audit review will take place for 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. Pam Greenfield will start her 2024 audit in May, 2025 so that it can be approved by Bishop Kym before Bishop Kym goes on sabbatical.

- Congregational Giving: The members of the Standing Committee are encouraged to discuss these details in our regional standing committee meetings.

The group recessed to share in Eucharist from 3:45 – 4:40.

4:40 – Cathedral Ridge Report offered by Nancy Jones. Nancy described the bookkeeping plan related to transfer of funds to Cathedral Ridge in 2024. She described background of Cathedral Ridge's finances, and challenges, especially with the expense of fire insurance. Nancy noted that the standing committee will review Cathedral Ridge's needs and the opportunities in ministry there in greater depth in December or January meetings. Canon Greg spoke to the essential role that Cathedral Ridge plays in formation in our diocese. Canon Greg congratulated John in the staff that he has put together to help lead Cathedral Ridge into the future. Nancy notes that Vicar John will provide a more complete Cathedral Ridge presentation on 11/16.

4:55pm – Property Report offered by Canon Jon.

- Jon noted that the 3650 Yates St. property (previously St. John's in the Highlands; 16,376 square feet on a 52,200 foot ; 1.2 acre lot – translates to 9.4 lots); currently the property generates \$1060 in income; tenants will vacate on 12/31/24. An appraisal was completed two years ago that was just under \$4 million. (Possibly currently valued at \$4.5 million.)

- St. Francis Center is at the final stages of getting into place a \$1.5 million line of credit, which the St. Francis Center board must approve, then will come to the standing committee for approval. St. Francis has had \$750,000+ of accounts receivable on their books. Having a line of credit will allow the Center to smooth out cash flow. The Day Center located at 2347 Curtis Street, which St. Francis Center is currently using, is for sale.
- The Bishop and Diocese is a co-signer on Intercession, Thorton's mortgage. The \$136,000 loan matured in 2018, and matured again on September 4, 2024. The loan will be renewed for five years.
- A report with recommendations related to the proceeds from sale of the Service Corps house will be provided to Standing Committee and Bishop in December.

5:25 – Bishop's Time & Bishop's Staff Time Commenced – Bishop Kym addressed two clergy/staff leadership issues which are in process. A subcommittee on the Standing Committee is working to create a report on one of the two situations. Bishop Kym also talked about the need to build sound process; “good process builds trust.”

Bishop Kym shared an overview of her sabbatical plans, November 1, 2025 – March 18, 2026. Bishop Kym will spend 7 weeks on the continent of Africa, connecting with women Bishops in different contexts, both in Kenya and Southern Africa. She will spend three weeks in Mexico with Bishop Sally Hernandez. Bishop Kym asked the Standing Committee to consider, “What will be the work of the diocese during the sabbatical time?” (Some consideration of *Vital Christian Communities* book study.)

Canon Vanessa shared that in 2024, there have been 21 transitions. She will be on sabbatical from Easter – August 2025.

Canon Mike shared about Martha, the AI assistant on the diocesan website, which draws on Anglican/Episcopal sources to provide answers/basic information.

6:19 – The group recessed for dinner.

After dinner, the group moved into executive session.

Saturday, November 16, 2024

Present: Nancy Jones, Chris Ditzenberger, Donna Colville, Karla Schapansky, Melissa George, Chuck Theobald, Darren Armstrong, Chip Page, Matthew Frey, Bill Stanton, Wren Blessing

8:30 – The group gathered for reflection and prayer, led via Zoom by Amy Lythgoe. At 8:50, the group recessed for breakfast.

9:20: The group reconvened and a Cathedral Ridge presentation was offered by Vicar John Hill Nancy Jones addressed the reality that the same person is treasurer for the Diocese and Cathedral Ridge, a conflict that has been waived by both parties, because it brings value to both parties to have the same person do it.

Cathedral Ridge Vicar John Hill described a full summer calendar for 2025. He noted bed space limitations as a challenge for Cathedral Ridge, and presented plans for convertible cabins to expand hosting capacity. In order to get to “break even” income/expense, Cathedral Ridge needs a gathering space and three flexible cabins (at \$1.5 million each).

10:17: Lauren Grubaugh Thomas and the leadership team of Holy Companion, Sterling Ranch shared about this emerging worshipping community. The community is awaiting regional sponsorship for special congregation status.

11:24: Jonah Heiser participated in a postulant interview with the Standing Committee.

Darren asked the committee for feedback on the Formation discussion and Friday evening. The committee agreed that we're change agents and we expressed to be better with our responsibilities as Standing Committee members. More discussion followed.

1. Darren expressed that TSC will be recognized and develop connection and listen with other leadership groups in the Office of the Bishop and across the Diocese.

2. TSC will visit with the Bishop and the Regional Missioners. We will develop relationships with the Deputies to General Convention. Darren will initiate conversations with the Regional Missioners. Bill and Chuck will pursue contact and establish a position of liaison to the Diocesan Convention. Bill will be the contact with Nancy Jones as Diocesan Treasurer and Cathedral Ridge. Bill will have conversation With the Bishop and Lauren regarding the church plant. Donna volunteered to be TSC liaison to Jon Anderson and the Regional Directors after Darren talks to Jon about this. (Karla volunteered for this role if Donna declines.

We're going to reformat our retreats.

We interviewed Jonah Heiser as a postulant for the Transitional Diaconate. TSC was very impressed.

Donna made the motion and Chuck seconded to approve Jonah as a postulant for the Transitional Diaconate.

The motion was approved unanimously. Karla and Melissa will send Jonah a thank you card for interviewing With TSC and wish him continued success.

A motion to approve a Bishop's Consent for The Very Rev.

Amy Dafler Meaux as Bishop of West Missouri was made by Bill and seconded by Chuck. It was

Approved unanimously. A second motion to

Approve a Bishop's Consent for The Rev. Angela Maria Cortinas as Bishop Suffragan of West Texas. The motion

was made by Chris and seconded by Donna. The motion was approved unanimously.

A request will be made by Karla to Kirsten to resend TSC 2025 meeting schedule.

Donna expressed confirmation that the Diocese pays For TSC retreats. She offered gratitude to Riki and Abigail For their help and support for our retreats.

The meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Darren at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by The Reverend Wren Blessing and Karla Schapansky, Recording Secretaries.

