

**SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL  
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES**  
February 27, 2007 – 6:00 to 8:10 p.m.  
St. Nicholas Building – Room 216

**Vestry Members Present:**

Betsy Greenman, Bp. Rep.	LaVerne Hall
Robert Taylor, Dean	Michelle Hasson
Carol Hoerster, Senior Warden	Randy Urmston
Jordan Gross, Junior Warden	Judy Whetzel
George Robertson, Junior Warden	Herb Williams
Barbara Erickson, Clerk	Tracy Garland, Treasurer
Miller Adams	
Connie Espe	<b>Guest:</b> Margaret Rothschild

**Staff:**

Mary Coon  
Ryan Marriott  
Karen Scott

**Absent:**

Larry Clarkson  
Greg Davis  
Ben Porter  
Diane Stevens

**Call to Order**

Dean Taylor called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., extended apologies from those unable to attend, and gave a special welcome to Mary Coon, newly returned to Saint Mark's staff as COO/Vice Dean, and to Margaret Rothschild, member-elect of the Vestry. He reviewed the Revised Agenda, noting one change, and referred to two agenda documents at each person's place: Revised Resolution FI-08 and Revised Three-Year Budget.

**Spiritual Reflection**

The Dean spoke of a recent discussion with Bishop Nedi Rivera regarding the communiqué that emerged from the Anglican Primates' meeting in Tanzania earlier in February. The Bishop recalled words of Howard Thurman from his autobiography, *The Head and the Heart*, in which he cited a time when the Methodist Church was struggling for unity between black and white churches. He wrote that personal religious faith should provide secure ground for a person in this life, not require a person to stretch him/herself out of shape to conform to that faith, but rather enable that person to come to their own self in an inclusive and integrated manner. The Dean closed his reflections with prayer.

**Action Item**

**Consent Agenda**

The Vestry accepted the Consent Agenda consisting of the following:

- Approval of Minutes of 1/23/07 Vestry Meeting
- Receipt of Reports/Notes/Minutes of Meetings of Vestry Committees
  - Finance Committee meeting notes – 1/22/07
  - Stewardship & Development Committee minutes – 2/6/07
  - Holy Orders Committee notes of 12/12/06 & 2/6/07
- Receipt of Report of Diocesan Council meeting notes for 1/25/07
- Adoption of 2007 Vestry Calendar (#06-GO-06)

**Reports/Discussion**

**Dean's Report**

**Staffing**

1. Robert reported that Mary Coon is filling Saint Mark's new staff position of Vice Dean/COO; he expressed his appreciation to Mary for accepting the position.
2. The Dean also reported that Saint Mark's Office Manager, Kathy Wells, has had emergency surgery and will be out of the office for several weeks; Liz Sloat is filling in for Kathy during her absence.

### Annual Meeting

The Dean gave an overview of the Saint Mark's Annual Meeting of February 25, 2007. He noted that there had been good attendance at the meeting and a good spirit among attendees. He highlighted the following items:

1. The Annual Report had a new format and presentation, for which the Dean thanked Ryan Marriott.
2. The Vestry elections went smoothly with 167 ballots cast; not everyone present cast ballots. Those elected were Paula Clapp, Bob Muglia, and Ben Porter.
3. Pro Cristo Awards went to Larry Clarkson, the Vestry's first Community Representative under the Cathedral's new governance model; George Robertson, the first Diocesan Representative; and to Dick and Jane Carter for their work with the Russian Parish Partnership.
4. The Dean's Report covered three main areas.
  - a. the life of the Cathedral congregation, the parish of Saint Mark's
  - b. the Master Planning Task Force and its upcoming work
  - c. the 2007 Operating Budget, including necessary cuts.

The Dean announced that the four main reports presented at the Annual Meeting will be summarized and issued in booklet form by Marriott Ryan. These include the Dean's Report, Treasurer Tracy Garland's Financial Report, the Senior Warden's Report, and the Master Planning Task Force Report presented by John Hoerster, one of its Co-Chairs.

Discussion following the Dean's Report brought forth recommendations that consideration be given to providing additional, more detailed financial information in future annual reports.

### Important happenings at Saint Mark's

Robert gave an overview of recent and upcoming events in the life of the Cathedral:

- Faith Formation offered a 5-part series, *Is Jesus the only way to God?*, with Jewish, Buddhist, Muslim, and Christian perspectives, which was very well attended.
- Tent City 3 is back at Saint Mark's for a 10-week stay, its eighth. Sunday evening meals will be provided by Saint Mark's and there will be many other opportunities to interact with the residents, to help, and to learn.
- Three Sunday morning series titled, *Faith in the Public Square: Intersections between Faith and the Common Good*, being offered during the Adult Forum hour during March.
- A concert by a group of Palestinians and Israelis, *The Mystical Music of the Middle East*, sponsored by Find Common Ground, will be presented on Sunday, March 18, at 4:00 p.m. in the Nave
- The Gyuto Monks return to Saint Mark's for a week, April 11-15. They will again pray a sand mandala in Macaw Chapel.
- Tracey Lind, Dean of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio, at Saint Mark's: Her photographic exhibit titled *Holy Ground: The People and Places of Israel and Palestine*, is in the ArtSpace in the Nave from Feb 25 to April 4. She will preach at Saint Mark's on Sunday, March 18, and sign copies of her book, *Interrupted by God: Glimpses from the Edge*, following the service.
- Robert conducted a Sunday morning Dean's Forum on the election of a new bishop for the Diocese of Olympia and to discuss recent events in the Anglican Communion. He announced that there will be additional Dean's Forums this spring.

Regarding the Bishop search process, Robert noted that the walkabouts with bishop candidates will be during the first week in May. The election will be on Saturday, May 12, in the Cathedral nave.

### Senior Warden's Report

Senior Warden Carol Hoerster shared copies of columnist Anthony Robinson's comments on the institutional church published on the Religion Page of the P-I, Saturday, February 24.

Carol reported on behalf of the Compensation Committee. The Committee was charged with securing a long term commitment with the Dean to ensure his leadership through a capital campaign and construction/renovations. The Committee was not able to secure such an agreement but had a proposal to present that would be the first step in a two-part process. The Vestry went into Executive Session to discuss the recommendation. After reconvening, the Vestry unanimously accepted the Compensation Committee's recommendations.

## **Holy Orders Committee Report – Proposed Vestry Resolution #P-06-HO-06**

Co-Chair Connie Espe presented a proposed vestry resolution, which appoints a Personal Discernment Committee for Kate Sullivan. Members of the PDC will be Pamela Bradburn Ochs, Carolyn Shaw Busby, Robert S. Wright and Jim Green.

**Vestry Resolution #P-06-HO-06 was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.**

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Gift Acceptance Resolution**

Treasurer Tracy Garland presented a proposed vestry resolution for the Vestry to accept a gift in the amount of \$28,308.36 from the Adrienne B. Reilly Foundation, to be deposited into *The Adrienne Baker Reilly Buildings and Maintenance Fund*, the proceeds to be used for Buildings and Grounds.

Vestry discussion highlighted the need for additional consideration regarding the terms under which the gift will be established in a fund.

Therefore, the Resolution was reworded as follows and moved, seconded, and passed unanimously:

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VESTRY OF SAINT MARK'S CATHEDRAL:**

**Approval is given for the grateful acceptance of the following gift:**

**A total donation of \$28,308.36 from the Adrienne B. Reilly Foundation.**

**ADOPTED by the Vestry of Saint Mark's Cathedral this 27<sup>th</sup> day of February 2007.**

Details will be finalized regarding the appropriate fund management for this gift, and shared at a future meeting.

### **Operating Fund Year-to-Date Performance as of January 31, 2007**

Treasurer Tracy Garland and Finance Committee Chair George Robertson presented and discussed the end-of-January figures for the Operating Budget. Final 2007 budget figures were not yet available; therefore, year-to-date variances with budget figures were not reflected on the report. January 31 year-to-date actuals showed Total Revenue at \$248,000 and Expenses at \$174,000, yielding a month-end surplus of \$74,000. The January 2007 figures were similar to those of January 2006.

## **Master Planning Update**

Master Planning Task Force (MPTF) Co-Chair Judy Whetzel gave an update report on the activities of the Master Planning Task Force. She distributed copies of Co-Chair John Hoerster's Report to the Annual Meeting. It provides a brief history of the MPTF and an outline of its work to-date. In his report, John predicted that by the 2008 Annual Meeting, the Cathedral will have hired an architect who will be well on the way to developing the new design of the Cathedral campus and its buildings, and who may very well be ready to do a presentation at the Annual Meeting.

Judy reported that the full Task Force met on Monday, February 26, after several months of not meeting; the prevailing mood of Task Force members was one of optimism and eagerness to engage the next phase of their work.

## **"Main Thing"**

### **Mutual Ministry Agreement**

Junior Warden George Robertson distributed copies of Draft 2 of "Saint Mark's Cathedral Mutual Ministry Agreement for 2007 between The Wardens and Vestry of Saint Mark's Cathedral and The Very Reverend Robert Taylor, Dean of Saint Mark's Cathedral." This Agreement provides a reference document to evaluate against when the Dean and the Vestry perform the Annual Mutual Ministry Review. To-date, the Cathedral has not had the Agreement in place; therefore, the current one is a draft. It includes the Cathedral's Mission Statement as well as various documents and stated goals, such as the Strategic Plan. Each year the Agreement is updated to include newly-stated goals and objectives. George recommended that the draft Agreement be reviewed and then, at the March Vestry Workday, be updated to include specific goals for 2007, voted on by the

Vestry for acceptance, and the final draft signed, thereby putting it in place for next year's Mutual Ministry Review.

#### Mutual Ministry Review

Senior Warden Carol Hoerster distributed sealed copies of the results of the 2006 Mutual Ministry Review. Stressing the confidentiality of the Reviews, she requested that they be read and reflected on in preparation for discussion at the Vestry Workday on March 24, and that the copies be brought to the Workday. She expressed appreciation to Vestry members for 100% participation in the review process.

#### Education/Inspiration – Three-Year Budget: 2007-2009

George presented an updated version of the Saint Mark's Three-Year Operating Budget for 2007-2009, which shows a smaller deficit for 2006 than had previously been anticipated, \$15,000 rather than \$60,000. For comparison, the spreadsheet includes a column for each of the three years, 2004-2006.

George noted that since details for 2007 expenses were not available, the expense side of each budget, 2007-2009, reflects only Total Expenses. Once details are provided for 2007, details for 2008 and 2009 will be completed. The expense totals are slightly less than revenue totals each year to provide for small surpluses. George gave an overview of the detailed revenue budgets, noting that several revenue categories do not change from year to year. The annual increases in the items that do change: Annual Campaign, Plate, and Gifts & Grants, were budgeted according to guidelines in the Three-Year Business Plan.

**George moved adoption of the Three-Year Budget: 2007-2009;  
Randy Urmston seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.**

#### New Business

##### Open Mike

Barbara Erickson spoke of a recent visit to St. John's Episcopal Cathedral in Jacksonville, Florida, and of how impressed she was by the beauty of the campus and their amazing programs to help the poor. Seeing what has been done at St. John's opened Barbara's eyes to future possibilities for Saint Mark's and filled her with excitement and enthusiasm as we move ahead with Saint Mark's master plans.

Connie Espe requested everyone's prayers for her mother who was seriously ill, and for her entire family.

George Robertson expressed appreciation for his three years on the Vestry as the first Diocesan Representative under the new governance model at the Cathedral. He thanked others for their support and recognized the new governance structure as worthy of emulation by other cathedrals.

##### Recognition of the work of outgoing Vestry members

Senior Warden Carol Hoerster expressed appreciation to Vestry members who have completed their terms: Larry Clarkson, Greg Davis, George Robertson and Judy Whetzel have served for three years, and Ben Porter for one year. Ben was filling an unexpired term for a member who resigned and will now continue on the Vestry for a full three-year term as a newly-elected member.

##### Closing Prayer/Adjournment

Judy Whetzel, outgoing Vestry representative on the Master Planning Task Force, offered the closing prayer after expressing confidence in the master planning process and encouraging the Vestry to move forward, assured in the outcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean S. Greene  
Assistant Clerk to the Vestry  
Saint Mark's Cathedral Vestry Minutes, February 27, 2007

Barbara Erickson  
Clerk of the Vestry