

**Christ Church Cathedral  
Minutes of the Vestry  
December 17, 2007**

Vestry Members in attendance: Jennifer Johnston, Pete Stringer, Sigourney Cheek, Libby Patterson, Joann Knight, Marian Ott, Christy Hooper, Ken King, Judy Wright, Charlie Cook, Walker Matthews, Thor Urness, John Stone. Cathedral clergy present: Anne Stevenson, Geoffrey Butcher, Matthew Corkern. Also present: Paul Elledge, Eileen Hosking, Sandra Merritt, Hal Johnson, Susan Dupont, Tobi Nolan.

The Vestry of Christ Church Cathedral held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 17, 2007. Jennifer Johnston called the meeting to order at 6:45pm. Anne Stevenson opened the meeting in prayer. Jennifer Johnston gave the meditation.

• **Warden's Time:**

- The following resolution was introduced and seconded: *Resolved, that the Vestry elects Pete Stringer to serve as Senior Warden and Charlie Cook as Junior Warden.* Unanimously approved by the Vestry.
- The following resolution was introduced and seconded: *Resolved, that the Vestry nominates Matthew Corkern to be a candidate for deputy at General Convention.* Unanimously approved by the Vestry.
- Discussion of candidate for ordination. The following resolution was introduced and seconded: *Resolved, that the Vestry approve the recommendation of the Vocational Discernment Committee to recommend a candidate for postulancy, the recommendation needing approval of the Sponsoring Priest and two-thirds majority of the Vestry, with the Clerk to attest the Holy Orders Form 4, Recommendation for Postulancy.* Unanimously approved by the Vestry.
- The following resolution was introduced and seconded: *Whereas, section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code specifies that the amount of a minister's compensation that is designated in advance by an employing church as a housing allowance is not taxable in computing federal income taxes to the extent that it is used to pay for actual expenses incurred in owning or renting a home or apartment, and, in the case of a minister who owns a home, does not exceed the fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities); and Whereas, Canon Anne Stevenson, Canon Geoffrey Butcher and Canon Matthew Corkern are compensated by Christ Church Cathedral exclusively for services as Episcopal priests; and Whereas, Christ Church Cathedral does not provide the Canons with Cathedral owned housing; therefore, it is Resolved, that of the total compensation paid to Canon Stevenson and Canon Butcher for calendar year 2008, \$32,000 is hereby designated as a housing allowing; for Canon Corkern, \$36,000, pursuant to section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.* Unanimously approved by the Vestry.
- The following resolution was introduced and seconded: *Resolved, for the purpose of documenting Christ Church Cathedral's agreement with Equitable Advisors, that Eileen Hosking, CEA, and Larry Smith, Accountant, are hereby authorized to sell, assign and endorse for transfer, certificates representing stocks, bonds, or other securities now registered or hereafter registered in the name of Christ Church Cathedral, in accordance with an agreement provided by Equitable, which Pete Stringer will execute on behalf of the Vestry.* Unanimously approved by the Vestry.
- The following resolution was introduced by the junior warden and seconded: *Resolved, that the Vestry charge the search committee for the position of Dean to recommend by unanimous vote one candidate, with the search committee's recommendation to carry by a vote of at least 2/3 of the Vestry.* Unanimously approved by the Vestry.
- The senior warden provided an update on the interim dean search. One more candidate will visit in January 2008, with the expectation that if that candidate is not selected, then the focus will turn completely to the search for a permanent dean.

- The Vestry retreat will be on January 12, 2008, at Hachland Hall in Clarksville, the agenda being to address the budget and to update our vision statement, with Chris Neiman facilitating the vision statement discussion.
- **Report by Priest-in-Charge:**
  - Anne Stevenson reported on the many ongoing activities of this time of year, that the Festival of Lessons of Lessons and Carols on December 16, 2007, was attended to capacity for the first time since its inception, and that the clergy have continued to make stewardship calls.
  - Anne Stevenson reported that our sabbatical priests, Trevor and Gwyn Slade, have decided to leave at the end of January, rather than in May 2008, for reasons having nothing to do with their experience here, which has been a success. Rather, Gwyn Slade feels that her parish in South Africa needs her attention sooner than planned. Anne Stevenson said that Gwyn Slade plans to attend the January 2008 Vestry meeting.
  - Anne Stevenson reported that Geoffrey Bishop, a physician on staff at Vanderbilt, has asked to be named a priest associate at the Cathedral. The Priest-in-Charge has invited Geoffrey Bishop to join the staff as a priest associate in a non-stipendiary capacity and the Bishop has approved this addition to the clergy staff.
  - Anne Stevenson reported that Delores Nicholson is appreciative of her new role as a deacon.
- **Approval of Minutes:** The following resolution was introduced and seconded: *Resolved, that the Vestry approve the minutes of the November 26, 2007 Vestry meeting, as amended.* Unanimously approved by the Vestry.
- **Vestry Time: Reports from Cluster Liaisons**
  - **Finance and Stewardship:** Walker Mathews submitted a written report.
    - Marian Ott noted that, as to the Cathedral's receipt of a \$10,000 gift from the Buntin Foundation, the Finance Committee recommends that this gift be used to pay down the principal on the loan. The following resolution was introduced and seconded: *Resolved, that the Vestry direct the \$10,000 gift from the Buntin Foundation to pay down the principal on the loan.* Unanimously approved by the Vestry.
    - The senior warden reported that as of the most recent tally, 516 pledging units have pledged \$1,910,745 for 2008, with 114 pledges not accounted for, the Stewardship Committee's expectation being that if half of such pledges are turned in, the total pledges would be approximately \$2,000,000.
  - **Outreach:** Libby Patterson submitted a written report.
    - Libby Patterson reported that the Global Missions Committee has recommended that remaining emergency funds and funds not used in 2007 for the sabbatical priest program for 2007, \$6,246.81, be given to the orphanage operated by Gwyn Slade's parish in South Africa, St. John the Divine Orphans and Outreach Board. Libby Patterson solicited input on the Alternative Christmas event.
  - **Sacred Space:** Ken King submitted a written report.
    - Ken King noted that the Nashville Unlimited concert was successful, Anne Stevenson reported that the concert was well attended, although not as well attended as last year. Approximately \$8,000 to \$10,000 was raised by the concert for Room in the Inn.
  - **Membership Care:** Joanne Knight submitted a written report.
    - Joanne Knight reported that the reconciliation efforts are ongoing, with an upcoming dialogue with members of the mosque on faith and violence. The last session was

devoted to a discussion of Mary. Ken King reported that on January 21, 2008, Martin Luther King Day, congregants will march with members of the mosque.

- **Spiritual Formation:** Christy Hooper submitted a written report.
  - Christy Hooper reported that Lenten reflection submissions are due by January 18, 2008.
  - Matthew Corkern reported that the Bishop of Exeter will be here to preach on January 28, 2008.
  
- **Property and Personnel:** No written report was submitted. It was reported that Tyrone Davis has been let go.
  
- **New Business:** Joanne Knight requested that the cluster liaison reports be attached to the minutes posted the website and on the bulletin board. Eileen Hosking advised that this would be easy to accomplish.
  
- **Warden's Time (continued):**
  - The senior warden reported that the Bishop has advised the Vestry and other vestries in the Diocese that Ken Swanson has agreed to a course of action determined by the Bishop. Jennifer Johnston advised that she intends to accept the Bishop's offer to write a letter to Cathedral congregants as to this matter.
  - The senior warden called the Vestry into executive session. The Vestry met in executive session.
  
- **Old Business:** None.
  
- **Key Dates:**
  - Jan. 11 Vestry Dinner, Stringer home
  - Jan. 12 Vestry Retreat, Hachland Hall in Clarksville
  - Jan. 28, 5:15 Next Vestry meeting

The meeting was adjourned by motion of the Vestry at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Stanford Adams, Clerk

**Attachments and handouts:**

- Vestry Agenda, December 17, 2007
- Vestry Meeting Minutes, November 26, 2007
- Membership Care Cluster Report, December 2007
- Outreach Cluster Report, December 2007
- Spiritual Formation Cluster Report, December 2007
- Finance Committee Report, December 2007
- Sacred Space Cluster Report, December 2007
- Balance Sheet Detail, November 30, 2007
- Vocational Discernment Committee report
- Budgeted Income and Expense Statement, November 30, 2007
- Vestry Meditation Schedule 2008