

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE VESTRY OF THE CHAPEL OF THE CROSS WILL BE ON  
THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2023**

**in the Overlook Room**

**with the business session to begin at 6:00 p.m.**

The Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross met in the Overlook Room of the parish and via Zoom on Thursday, March 16, 2023. Present were the following vestry members: Jessica Aylor, Brian Coggins, Woody Coley, Anita Howell, Katherine Lavine, Harriet Pegram (Jr. Warden), Roman Perun (Sr. Warden, via Zoom), Alan Rimer, and Bennet Waters. Also present were the following clergy: Elizabeth Marie Melchionna (Rector), Mary Catherine Young (Associate Rector for University Ministry, via Zoom), Keith Esposito (Curate), and Mawethu Ncaca (Assistant to the Rector). The Rev. Geoffrey Hoare (sabbatical priest during the Rector's upcoming sabbatical) was present via Zoom for part of the meeting. Also present were Diane McOmie (Parish Administrator and Stewardship Coordinator) and Alice Cotten (Clerk).

The Rector presided and called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Devotion/Prayer**

Harriet Pegram led the devotion, reading the poem, "For Lent, 1966," by Madeline L'Engle, following with a prayer.

**Consent Agenda**

The following items were placed on the Consent Agenda (attached):

Approval of Minutes from February 2023 Meeting of the Vestry

Acceptance of *Cross Roads* summary for February 2023 meeting

Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Approval of Minutes from the Vestry Meeting at Retreat of February 25

Acceptance of *Cross Roads* summary for February 25 Vestry Meeting

Acceptance of Facilitator's Report from Vestry and Staff Retreat of February 25

Acceptance of Rector's Report

Acceptance of Associate Rector for University Ministry's Report

Acceptance of Curate's Report

Acceptance of Assistant to the Rector's Report

Acceptance of Christian Formation Report

Acceptance of Parish Life and Worship Report

Acceptance of Communications Report

Acceptance of Buildings and Grounds Report – Feb. 2023

Acceptance of Faith in Action Report

Acceptance of Casavant Organ Committee Minutes – March 6

**It was moved by Alan Rimer, seconded by Jess Aylor, and passed unanimously, that the Vestry approve the Consent Agenda.**

### **Rector's Update**

The Rector's report is attached.

Ms. Melchionna welcomed **The Rev. Geoffrey Hoare**, who joined the meeting via Zoom from Wilmington. Mr. Hoare will be with the parish during the Rector's sabbatical, arriving on May 1 and staying through July. He came from his native England to UNC as a Morehead Scholar, worshipped at COTC, was ordained a Deacon here, and began ministry at Christ Church in Raleigh. After graduating from UNC, he went back to England to study at Cambridge, returning to the US later for what he thought would be only a couple of years to learn about large system parishes. He remained in the US. His time at COTC, he reflected, helped him develop a "much more generous understanding of grace." He expressed gratitude for the Rector's invitation and the opportunity it provided for him to return to a place that had been so instrumental in shaping his faith, and he and his wife look forward to being here.

The Rector will begin her **sabbatical** after Easter, returning the first week of August. She plans to write to the parish three times—when she leaves, mid-way through the sabbatical, and just

before returning. She reminded the Vestry that the Sr. Warden is the Ecclesiastical Authority in the Rector's Absence.

Ms. Melchionna is on the board of the **Episcopal Parishes Network** and recently attended its annual conference, which she reported was time well spent, with major speakers on significant topics. At a talk on crisis management she was pleased that our parish had already offered training on fire drills and safety. She also reminded the Vestry that our parish never has to reinvent the wheel, as most situations have occurred in the wider church, and help is available when needed. She was able to speak with former COTC Priest Noah Van Niel at the conference, and she asked for prayers for his father, who has health concerns.

The Rector reminded everyone that **Holy Week** was soon coming up and encouraged attendance at services during that week, rather than jumping from Palm Sunday to Easter.

She acknowledged that **construction** for the new organ and the tower repair will cause disruption to the parish's normal worship spaces and habits and encouraged Vestry members to reassure others that the disruption will be temporary, and to remind them that the organ is for the worship of God.

Ms. Melchionna circulated a "**Faith in Action**" poster and asked Vestry to look at the QR code on the poster and respond to the questionnaire, designed to help parishioners decide where they might serve. She noted that serving as disciple of Jesus is more than just liturgical and said that the questions will enable connections of people that they may not have realized were there. In response to a comment that the form was too long, Ms. Melchionna responded that the form can be modified and encouraged feedback.

Next, the Rector brought attention to a document, "**The Chapel of the Cross/Capital Budgeting Process – Policy and Procedures,**" that was distributed in hard copy at the meeting and also via email. The document, originally adopted in 2019, was revised in May 2021 and October 2022, and major revisions were proposed in November 2022 and March 2023. The Finance Committee recommends approval of the revised document, and the Vestry will vote on it at its April 20 meeting. Ms. Melchionna asked that Vestry members review the document and send any feedback to Diane McOmie.

Ms. Melchionna then turned to a **pastoral note** and invited Bennet Waters to speak. Mr. Waters explained that because of family matters, specifically the illness of his mother and his increasing responsibilities for her, he feels that he cannot fulfill his Vestry responsibilities as he would like to do and thus needs to submit his resignation and step down. Many spoke in appreciation of his significant work thus far. The Rector affirmed that family must come first. After a brief pause for the Vestry to reflect on this news, Ms. Melchionna outlined the process to follow in this case and told the Vestry that a qualified person, Brad Ross, formerly a parishioner at St. Paul's in Winston-Salem, had been identified to fill the rest of the term of Mr. Waters and could be appointed by the Vestry. Two motions followed:

**Harriet Pegram moved that the Vestry accept the resignation of Bennet Waters, with regret. Brian Coggins seconded the motion. It was approved unanimously.**

**Jessica Aylor moved that the Vestry appoint Brad Ross to fill the rest of the term of Bennet Waters. Anita Howell seconded. There was no discussion. All Vestry members present voted to approve the motion, with no abstentions and no opposing votes.**

The Rector encouraged Vestry members to welcome Mr. Ross and help acclimate him as he joins the Vestry.

### **Standing Committee Updates-**

The Rector said there was **no treasurer's report**, but there will be a report in April.

The Casavant Organ Committee Minutes of March 6 and the Project Status Report of March 14 are attached.

Brian Coggins, Chair of the **Casavant Organ Committee**, gave an update. He explained that Casavant was running a little behind schedule in their design work but expect to have engineering drawings by the end of May. Mr. Coggins said that we are, however, close to having the final construction drawings, which can then be submitted to contractors for bid, and to the town for approval.

The Rector commented that we don't yet know when we will be back in the nave but that it is important to be positive when speaking of this very meticulous and time-consuming work.

In response to questions, Mr. Coggins said that the committee and the contractors are aware that the town permitting process may take two to four months, and that as soon as the committee has a clearer sense of timing the parish will be notified. The removal of the Kleuker organ, scheduled to begin in mid- May, is not affected by these delays.

### **Buildings and Grounds**

Harriet Pegram reported that the **lighting in the nave** is moving forward and may not be as complicated as initially thought.

Fr. Mawethu offered a prayer, and the Rector adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice R. Cotten

Clerk of the Vestry

**Attachments:**

Consent Agenda

Rector's Report

Associate Rector for University Ministry's Report

Lilly Leaders Report

Curate's Report

Assistant to the Rector's Report

Christian Formation Report

Music Report

Youth Ministry Report

Parish Life and Worship Report

Communications Report

Buildings and Grounds Report

Faith in Action Report

Casavant Organ Committee Minutes, March 6

Casavant Organ Committee Project Status Report