

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross
June 15, 2023**

The Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross met in the Overlook Room and via Zoom on Thursday, June 15, 2023. The following Vestry members were present: Jess Aylor, Brian Coggins, Anita Howell, Katherine Lavine, Caren Parker, Harriet Pegram (Junior Warden), Gail Perry (via Zoom), Roman Perun (Senior Warden), and Faith Turchi (via Zoom).

The following clergy were present: The Rev. Geoffrey Hoare (Sabbatical Priest) and The Rev. Keith Esposito (Curate).

Also present were Diane McOmie (Parish Administrator and Stewardship Coordinator), Sabrina Olsen (Treasurer), and Alice Cotten (Clerk).

Senior Warden Roman Perun presided and called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Devotion/Prayer

Anita Howell (self-described "Compost Queen") led the devotion, reading a selection, "Dirty Work," from *Compass and Stars* by Martin Smith. Smith's essay was a reminder that ministry takes us through the dust and dirt, and that small, often unseen actions are important, perhaps more so than public, dramatic actions. Ms. Howell ended with a Prayer for Guidance from the BCP.

Approval of May Minutes and June Consent Agenda

Mr. Perun moved approval of the May Vestry minutes, Ms. Pegram seconded, and there was unanimous approval.

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

- Minutes from May 2023 Vestry Meeting
- Summary of May 2023 Vestry Meeting
- Sabbatical Priest's report
- Letter from the Wardens
- Campus Ministry Associate Rector's report
- Curate's report
- Christian Formation report
- Parish Life and Worship report
- Communications report
- Faith in Action report
- Stewardship report
- Buildings and Grounds report
- Preschool Board Meeting minutes

Mr. Perun next moved approval of the June Consent Agenda, Ms. Howell seconded, and there was unanimous approval.

A word from the Rev. Geoffrey Hoare (attached)

Mr. Hoare commented that he has not been sitting around twiddling his thumbs! His written report covers some of his activities, including meeting with staff, pastoral visits, funerals, helping plan fundraising for the organ project, and helping plan for continuation of youth ministry at its high level. He shared an invitation for a fundraising evening on June 28 in support of the Johnson Service Corps. He welcomes any thoughts from Vestry members during his time with the parish.

A word from the Wardens (attached)

Senior Warden Roman Perun remarked that the Alice Cooper song, "School's Out for Summer," might be true in some cases, but that lots was going on at the Chapel of the Cross this summer. We have said goodbye to Fr. Mawethu. We will welcome Karen McGugan as a full-time Curate on August 7. Mr. Perun and the Rector both attended Ms. McGugan's ordination recently. Youth Minister Mike Peterson will soon be leaving for a new career.

Mr. Perun noted that he and Ms. Aylor had a wonderful "leaving conversation" with Mr. Peterson, who is looking forward to being just a regular "Church Dad" at COTC. In that conversation Mr. Peterson had expressed his hope that the Youth Minister position would not be turned into a half-time one. Responding to a question about the new curate's position, Mr. Hoare said that the Rector's idea is that the new curate will initially train for youth ministry. Youth ministry continues to be a parish priority. The Wardens and Mr. Hoare are continuing conversation about Youth Ministry with parents. Katherine Lavine added that Vacation Church Camp is coming up and what a joy it is to see the children and youth throughout the church that week. She noted the creativity and work that Boykin Bell puts into developing the program.

Mr. Perun pointed out that there are *two parish mission trips this summer*: one to Ecuador (which includes the Rector and Vestry member Alan Rimer) and a youth trip to Appalachia.

Mr. Perun announced that the COTC has been approved for a *Green Grant of \$5000 from the Diocese in support of the project to install solar panels on the roof.*

He acknowledged with appreciation the work of the Rev. Keith Esposito and Ms. Howell as they lead in the development of opportunities for Faith in Action-based broad participation volunteer events.

Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina Convention Delegate Nominees

Junior Warden Harriet Pegram presented the slate of nominees for delegates and alternates to the Diocesan Convention and moved acceptance of the slate. Roman Perun seconded. All present voted to approve the motion to accept the slate. The delegates and alternates accepted are as follows:

Term ending 2023: Roman Perun, Paul Ashdown

Term ending 2024: John Pegram, Strother Murray-Ndinga

Term ending 2025: Jennie Mabie, David Dasher

Alternate nominees, to serve a one-year term: Richard Gaillard, Lee Wollman, Simon Palmore

Organ Update –Brian Coggins (organ financial report attached)

Mr. Coggins said he was pleased to report that there was finally some activity, as the two expected bids for construction work have come in. One bid was twice the amount of the other. The lower bid was about \$600,000 for the organ work and about \$400,000 for the tower restoration work. The tower work bid was considerably higher than the \$200,000 expected, most of which is labor cost for the stonemasons who will work inside the tower for an expected five months. The tower restoration project will go to the Building and Grounds Committee, then to Finance, and then back to the Vestry for its consideration for approval.

Questions from the other Vestry members present included whether the higher contract bidder saw something that the lower bidder didn't see (organ committee members don't think this is the case), who will sign the contracts (either the Treasurer or the Senior Warden), should the parish Chancellor look over the contracts (yes), and whether Joe Rosemond, the Building Manager, should join the next planned meeting about the organ project (if he is not able to attend that particular meeting, Mr. Rosemond will be involved soon).

Faith Turchi (Building and Grounds) added later in the meeting that Melody Savage planned to have another conversation with the company that submitted the high bid.

Standing Committee Updates

Finance (attached)

Treasurer Sabrina Olsen reported that the financial reports look good. Revenues have rebounded, perhaps because parishioners are getting used to using *Realm*. The parish is in a strong cash position. ABC Sale revenue was recorded in May and was about \$3000 more than was budgeted, so Faith in Action ministries will have additional money for the current year. We are "performing according to plan," with a slight surplus of revenues over expenses. Market value of investments has recovered from the December balances. Will begin to look at next year's budget in early July. Pledges were up last year and are being paid. The parish usually has considerable cash contributed in plate offerings at the end of the year, as well as unpledged donations.

Closing Prayer and Adjourn

The Rev. Geoffrey Hoare offered a closing prayer, ending with a prayer for the evening from the BCP.

The Senior Warden adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice R. Cotten
Clerk of the Vestry

**The next meeting of the Vestry of The Chapel of the Cross will be on Thursday, July 20, 2023,
with the business session to begin at 6:00 p.m.**