

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross
July 20, 2023**

The Vestry of the Chapel of the Cross met in the Overlook Room and via Zoom on Thursday, July 20, 2023. The following Vestry members were present: Brian Coggins, Woody Coley, Anita Howell, Katherine Lavine, Caren Parker, Harriet Pegram (Junior Warden), Roman Perun (Senior Warden), Alan Rimer, Brad Ross, and Faith Turchi.

The following clergy were present: The Rev. Geoffrey M. St. J. Hoare (Sabbatical Priest), The Rev. Mary Catherine Young (Associate Rector for University Ministry, via Zoom), and The Rev. Keith Esposito (Curate).

Also present were Diane McOmie (Parish Administrator and Stewardship Manager), and Alice Cotten (Clerk).

Senior Warden Roman Perun presided and called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Devotion/Prayer (Brad Ross)

Mr. Ross, recently returned from Ireland and Scotland, offered traditional Irish and Scottish blessings to begin the meeting.

Sr. Warden Roman Perun thanked Mr. Ross for the devotion and asked that the minutes reflect that he is holding Mr. Ross to his promise to bring the favorite pint that he discovered on his recent trip.

Mr. Perun explained that the treasurer's absence was due to the birth of her grandchild. He noted that the third item on the evening's agenda should read "approval of June minutes and July consent agenda" (rather than June consent agenda).

Mr. Perun moved approval of the June minutes. Jr. Warden Harriet Pegram seconded the motion. There were nine votes to approve and one abstention (Mr. Ross, who was not present at the June meeting). **The June 2023 minutes were approved.**

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

Minutes from June 15, 2023 Vestry Meeting
Vestry Summary – June 15, 2023 Vestry Meeting
Minutes from the called June 29, 2023 Vestry Meeting
Vestry Summary—June 29, 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
Music report
Faith in Action report
Status report: Faith in Action Work 23-24 Program Year
Organ Committee Minutes of June 19, 2023
Organ Committee Minutes of July 17, 2023
Building and Grounds report – June 2023
June Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Stewardship Committee Meeting Minutes

Mr. Perun next moved approval of the July consent agenda. Ms. Pegram seconded the motion.
The July consent agenda was approved unanimously.

A Word from the Rev. Geoffrey Hoare (attached)

Before hearing from Mr. Hoare, Mr. Perun expressed appreciation and thanks to him for his work and ministry at the Chapel of the Cross during the Rector's sabbatical. His time with the parish has been a busy one.

Mr. Hoare thanked Mr. Perun and said he had a fantastic experience at COTC, and that it felt as if he had just arrived. *He stated that the COTC staff was the best staff he had ever worked with, everyone excelling at her/his job.*

A Word from the Wardens (attached)

Junior Warden Harriet Pegram summarized the July 9 meeting with about 25 youth and parents of youth by saying that there is anxiety about the parish youth program next year. Parents and youth want a full-time youth minister, but until the Rector returns from sabbatical, we don't know how staffing will be handled. The current plan is for youth ministry to be a priority for The Rev. Karen McGugan during her first year with COTC, though it will not be her only duty. Some Vestry members reported receiving questions from parents of youth about youth ministry for the coming year. Mr. Perun expressed his belief that the parish will work through this and said that Mike Peterson is willing to answer youth ministry questions if needed. Mr. Ross noted that it is a blessing for a parish to have a vocal, concerned group of parents and youth who care about its youth ministry program.

Organ Update - Brian Coggins (attached)

Mr. Coggins reported that the Organ Committee is trying to move forward and is awaiting the contract from Resolute, which might come as early as July 21. After the contract is received, reviewed, and signed, the building permit can be applied for. Terry Eason and Jon Whitney

recently visited the Casavant Organ Company and sent photos of some of our completed organ components, which is exciting and will be shared with parishioners. In response to a question, Mr. Coggins replied that pricing for duct work in the basement will not be included in the contract expected from Resolute within a few days.

Proposal to Increase Spending Authority for Organ – Senior Warden

(See one page document distributed at the meeting, “Casavant Organ Project/Update/Jul-23”) Sr. Warden Roman Perun reviewed the document showing the Organ Budget approved by the Vestry and the additional spending authority authorized, for a total of \$3.1M Vestry authorized expenditure. Excess of current estimate of costs over the “allowable” budget is \$31,737. Mr. Perun stated that he believed it would behoove the Vestry to increase the authorized expenditure from \$3.1M to \$3.3M and requested dialogue, with his hope for approval of the threshold increase. That way, if something out of the ordinary came up, he explained, the threshold increase should take care of it.

A thoughtful, thorough discussion followed, with varied opinions expressed over the proposed increase in spending authority. Questions raised included whether the threshold increase was too much or not enough, when we would get firm figures on costs, how much the Vestry wanted to be involved in details of the Organ Project, whether any possible threshold increase could wait another month, and how quickly the Organ Committee needs to be able to move after the contract is signed. Additional comments noted the outstanding diligence and expertise of those on the Organ Committee. After considerable dialogue Alan Rimer moved the question. **The proposal to increase the spending threshold on the Organ Budget from \$3.1M to \$3.3M was approved by a vote of 8 in favor (Brian Coggins, Anita Howell, Katherine Lavine, Caren Parker, Harriet Pegram, Roman Perun, Alan Rimer, and Brad Ross) and 2 opposed (Woody Coley and Faith Turchi), with no abstentions.**

Standing Committee Updates

Finance (attached)

Brad Ross spoke briefly about the Treasurer’s Report of July 16 submitted by Sabrina Olsen (attached), noting that the parish is in a good financial position, with an excess of expenses over revenues (related to timing), an increase in revenues over last year, and an increase in parishioner contributions. The balance sheet shows assets up. Money for the organ is coming in; the parish may need to borrow later. Ms. Olsen has developed a financial plan calendar for the rest of the year and will distribute it.

Stewardship (attached)

Katherine Lavine reported that she and Co-Chair Sally Goodnight are working and plan to roll out the annual campaign in September. They hope that fundraising for the Organ Project will be over at the end of August. In response to a question, Ms. Lavine said there is not a goal for the

quiet phase of the campaign. Mr. Perun commented that the plan to update the Stewardship Committee's charter is a good one.

Building and Grounds (attached)

Faith Turchi reported that the committee is ready to move forward after the tower remediation approval. Alan Rimer added that the parish has received two bids for the work on lighting in the nave. One bid is more than twice as much as the other. The committee is investigating.

Closing Comments, Prayer, and Adjournment

Before adjourning the meeting, Sr. Warden Roman Perun commented that the dialogue during the meeting is one reason we have such a strong Vestry. He thanked everyone for participating in the discussion. He added that it had been a pleasure leading the meetings in the Rector's absence. She will return in August.

Mr. Perun closed the meeting with the Prayer for Quiet Confidence from the BCP.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 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, August 17, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.