

## **Cathedral Chapter Meeting**

*May 23, 2023*

Attending: Amy McCreath, Jen Hopcroft, Derrick Muwina, Kevin Miller, Andrew Switter, John Lane, Katy Denning, Chris Capaldo, Beth Grundy, Anne Stetson, Kate Bast, Jane Peyrouse, Monica Elias Orellana, Sean Carpenter, Hall Kirkham, Megan Holding, Stephan Griffin, Betsy Munzer, Rebecca Spangler, Emily Garcia, Jennifer McCracken (guest)

Regrets: Gail Merriam, Nick Carter

### Agenda

Prayers/Devotions – Andrew Switter

Approval of Minutes from April Meeting

- Kevin moved to accept the minutes, Betsy seconded.
- Minutes approved unanimously.

Episcopal Church Racial Justice Audit Discussion: Racism Rooted in Historical Context – Amy

- Many of our practices in the Church are rooted in enslavement, and many of our congregations have benefited from enslavement. Looking at this enables us to see how the “racist aftershocks” lives in our present.
- Each of us is part of our generation, and that can affect our awareness of race, and how comfortable we are diving into these conversations.
- Authors of this section invite us to think about what we were handed growing up, and how we use that as we work to be anti-racist.
- We also need to re-examine the history of the Cathedral through this lens. The History Committee of 2018-2020 began this work, and we’ve shared some of that work on the Cathedral’s website. It would be good for all Chapter members to be familiar with that scholarship.
  - Amy shared an excerpt from a 1987 history of the Cathedral, highlighting a “fresh air camp” organized by the Cathedral for young people in the 1920s. Cathedral staff uncovered a primary source document from that time that showcased the racist, discriminatory practices at that camp. Those details were exempted from the 1987 report, which was completely positive in tone.
- Share-Out
  - A member posed the question of how we judge things that happened in the past by today’s standards. Amy mentioned that the Reparations Subcommittee spent some time discussing this phenomenon of “presentism.” The Subcommittee did take note of voices in all periods of time that spoke out against oppression.
  - We just need to put it all out there. Acknowledging the wrongs that took place is key to reimagining and building our community. We don’t want to rush through Good Friday to get to Easter Sunday.

- This needs to be an evolving conversation that we return to as we dive into the reparations work. Is there a way we can help our congregations who are struggling with what to do after the discernment work, and encourage congregations to bring the work they've done to the Cathedral?
- One area of trouble for the Diocese is figuring out how to assist parishes that are having a difficult time even beginning this work.

#### Fundraising Five – Matthew Jarrell

- Chapter collectively came up with ideas for the ingredients of a Cathedral mission statement:
  - Action Verb
  - Intended Beneficiaries
  - End State
- Matthew called for volunteers to continue the brainstorming.

#### Chapter Committees – Jane and Amy

- Chapter meets each month for 90 minutes, but also convenes a series of committees with more focused responsibility. Each committee's work underpins the Cathedral's mission.
- An updated list of committees and membership will be sent around.
- Committees meet anywhere from quarterly to monthly depending on what needs to be discussed. Selection is self-driven, expectation of each Chapter member is to serve on at least one committee. Committees are charged with making recommendations to the larger Chapter.
- Committees that can use additional support:
  - Governance (will be meeting this summer)
  - Development
  - Rental Advisory
  - Marketing: a brand-new committee that will meet ~3 times a year to review how the Cathedral is sharing an invitation to the community, both in-person and online
  - History: did great work for several years and has been on pause for the last few.
  - Cathedral Chapter also has a seat on Diocesan Council. This has been vacant for a long time. It is a time-intensive but extremely important role.
- Kevin suggested that the new committee be called Evangelism rather than Marketing.

#### Honorary Canon Candidate: Byron Rushing – Amy

- Being an honorary canon is a custom of the Cathedral, but there's not much in writing about it. Chapter can designate this title as it likes. Cathedral has traditionally named honorary canons from time to time.
- Byron Rushing has served the Episcopal Church at every level including nationally as the Vice President of the House of Deputies. Amy mentioned this possibility to Byron, who said he would be open to some kind of named affiliation (perhaps "Friend") at the Cathedral even if it is not necessarily Honorary Canon, which is a title he has a few issues with.

- Chris stated that we should respect Byron’s wishes while finding a way to recognize the impact he has had. Beth agreed.
- Sean suggested Fellow or Chair as a softer, more academic term less steeped in power dynamics. Andrew agreed with Fellow and expressed hope that we could apply the same term to others over time.
- Megan suggested the suffix “In Resident” and then find out what role he’s most interested in playing. Agreed with the idea of Fellow. Friend sometimes connotes donor status.
- Andrew, Megan, Rebecca and Beth volunteered to put some additional thought into this with Amy.

#### Discussion of Construction/Finance and Dean’s Reports

- Derrick asked about the underwhelming response from parishes in support for the Cathedral, and whether there is anything parishes can do about that.
  - Jennifer mentioned the upcoming MANNA Manual, written through support from the BU Trauma-Responsive Congregations Grant, as something that could be shared.
  - Beth highlighted the number of different fundraising opportunities being offered to parishioners right now and expressed a desire to put thought into strategy around clarifying these opportunities. Amy mentioned the Cathedral can also offer visiting preachers who can help spread the word – Jennifer and Paul in particular have been doing hard work to evangelize for MANNA.
  - Emily agreed that it can be hard to reconcile building support for the Cathedral with internal parish support. Nautilus News is an extremely helpful resource, and sharing the Cathedral’s social media channels.
  - Rebecca asked to include The Crossing in these discussions as well.
- Amy made space for discussion of Bishop Gates’ retirement at the end of next year. The call for now is to be the best Cathedral we can be and avoid getting caught up in anxiety about what’s next. By all accounts, the Diocese is well-positioned for a healthy transition and has been reassured that there will be no immediate staffing upheaval among either the Diocese or Cathedral staffs.

Closing Prayer – Everyone