

Cathedral of Hope
Board of Stewards Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2026

Regular Session

Attendance:

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| X | Dusty Darrow, Chair | X | Vicki Saulnier, Vice Chair | | Brian Lewin, Treasurer |
| X | Greg Gifford, Secretary | X | Ronald Myles | X | Jon Nelson |
| X | Doug Waite | X | Angela Whorton | | |
| X | Rev. Neil Thomas | | | | |

- 1) Call to Order/Opening Prayer
 - a. Dusty Darrow called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm
 - b. Greg Gifford took the roll call (7 present, 1 absent, 1 vacant)
 - c. Rev. Neil opened the meeting in prayer
- 2) Agenda
 - a. **Motion: Approve Agenda**
 - i. **Made by: Angela Whorton**
 - ii. **Seconded by: Ronald Myles**
 - iii. **Vote (Y/N/A): 7/0/0 – Motion Approved**
- 3) Consent Agenda
 - a. **Motion: Approve Consent Agenda**
 - i. Bylaw updates will be placed on next month’s agenda.
 - ii. Finance committee update will be discussed in regular meeting
 - iii. **Made by: Vicki Sauliner**
 - iv. **Seconded by: Doug Waite**
 - v. **Vote (Y/N/A): 7/0/0 – Motion Approved**
- 4) Committee Reports
 - a. Congregational Engagement Committee
 - i. **Motion to approve Ken Seville and Daniel Boltman as members of the Congregational Engagement Committee subject to successfully completing the vetting process**
 - ii. **Made by: Jon Nelson**
 - iii. **Seconded By: Vicki Sauliner**
 - iv. **Passes 7-0-0**
 - b. Strategic Planning Committee

- i. SP Committee Chair, Ed, attended the meeting to provide an update on selection for consulting firm to assist with strategic planning. Committee is targeting end of March with a recommendation to the board and the committee is vetting multiple vendors (new and known) for this important work.
- c. Development Committee
 - i. Bell Wall Society event
- d. Finance Committee Report
 - i. None provided

5) Finance Report –

- a. Randal detailed the financial performance for 2025, noting a \$163,000 shortfall in contributions and a \$115,000 pro forma loss.
- b. Jon Nelson stressed the importance of increasing contributions and the potential impact of upcoming elections on the church's finances.
- c. Vicki Saulnier and Randal discussed the challenges of meeting contribution targets and the importance of diversified income streams.
- d. Reverend Dr. Neil Thomas reflected on the church's financial resilience and the importance of strategic planning.
- e. Randal outlined the financial plan for the columbarium project, including the need for board approval to borrow \$165,000 from the permanent reserve.

6) Church Report from Rev. Dr. Neil Thomas

- a. Settled on EOY dashboard that was sent earlier today
- b. This is the information the board wants and sends to the strategic planning committee with the goals that were set for 2025.
 - i. 2026 attendance is 839 per month
- c. Average new visitors – 11 per week as opposed to 25 per week as a goal
- d. New Realm profiles – added 1100 new in 2025 (far more than 11 visitors per week)
- e. In 2026, we have opened 101 new Realm profiles
- f. In 2025, 15 baptisms but this is a hard number to gauge
- g. NextGen averages around 20 and small group participation is 422 individuals which is over 50% of weekly attendance.
- h. Volunteer hours is the equivalent of 1.8 million dollars to our annual budget which is arrived at via a formula established by the federal government
- i. Online worship, Words of Hope podcast, weekly newsletter open rate is large, especially compared to non-profit organization standards.

- j. Digital congregation – 65 million FB impressions and total website sessions is 112,000 coming through the website for resources, etc
- k. 30% of budget comes from diversified incomes so we are not as reliant on weekly giving
- l. Global Congregation – Mexico is top country outside of US in terms of online engagement
- m. If there is more that the board wants, we are happy to develop it, but for now this is the one we want to maintain unless there is input that the board and strategic planning would like to have.

7) Continuing Business:

- a. *Tabled Motion:* Release of temporary restricted funds of \$40,000 from IRS ERTC tax rebate for development director position
 - i. **Motion to release temporary restricted fund for the Development Director Position**
 - ii. **Made by: Vicki Sauliner**
 - iii. **Seconded by: Jon Nelson**
 - iv. **Motion Passes: 7/0/0**
- b. Description and rendering of new columbarium project overview provided by Randal/Building and Grounds Committee
 - i. Recommendation to walk through the space at the March congregational meeting. Randal agreed to conduct this walk-throguh

8) New Business

- a. Annual Membership Review
 - i. The board reviewed lists to Reinstatement, Removal, and Inactive members
- b. **Motion to Reinstate the 15 persons on the reinstate list and Remove 147 persons listed on the Removal list**
 - i. **Made by: Greg Gifford**
 - ii. **Seconded by: Angela Whorton**
 - iii. **Motion Passes – 7/0/0**
- c. Approval of Board of Stewards Election Slate
 - i. Slate presented by Nominations Committee Chair, Barb Nunn.
 - ii. 3 candidates for 3 open positions – first time this has happened.
- d. **Motion to Approve the Slate**
 - i. **Made by: Doug Waite**
 - ii. **Seconded by: Angela Whorton**
 - iii. **Motion Passes – 6/0/1** (Sauliner abstained due to her candidacy.)

9) **Motion to Adjourn**

- a. **Made by: Angela Whorton**
- b. **Seconded by: Jon Nelson**
- c. **Motion passes – 7/0/0**

10) Meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm