

**Calvary Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Retreat 2020 Notes by Clerk**  
**January 11, 2020**  
**Church Health Center at Crosstown Concourse**

**Vestry Members Present:** Kim Kitterman, James Aldinger, Lisa Buckner, Madge Deacon, Bailey Fountain, Will Hayley, Kathryn Jasper, Nancy Manire, John Owen, Heidi Rupke, Ginny Strubing, Edwin Thorpe, John Webb

**Vestry Members Absent:** Laura Trott, Anna Kathryn Word

**Clergy Present:** Scott Walters, Amber Carswell, and Paul McLain

**Others Present:** Kat Gordon, retreat leader; Julie Bethell, clerk; Tony Graves, Treasurer, for report; David Lusk and Charles Shipp for report.

Scott Walters called the Vestry Retreat to order at 9:00 a.m. Amber Carswell opened with prayer, and Kim Kitterman read a scripture passage from Isaiah.

Kat Gordon welcomed all and asked us to introduce ourselves and give 3 words that describe Calvary. (See Kat Gordon's Retreat Notes on Basecamp for responses.)

Kat reminded us that we are all new to THIS 2020 vestry. Let's keep our expertise and traction, and also be open to new things.

Kat - today's questions: How do we want to use the Calvary space? Imagine ourselves in Calvary a few years from now – how do we envision the future? How can our built environment help our ability to achieve our goals/mission?

Scott spoke of grounding our ideas in our Christian faith, tasks with meaning, children communing with elders, all people in community finding their place – a sense of Shalom. Let us come up with a picture of Calvary in all its splendor.

Scott introduced a video re Urban Magnet Theory, a theory which had been helpful to Todd Richardson in developing Crosstown Concourse. The video highlighted Granville Island in Vancouver, a mixed-use development that uses Urban Magnet Theory by combining retail experience, production on site, education, landscape as a part of the fabric, festivals and events to serve as magnets, and a flow of people/pedestrians.

Discussion followed regarding the video/Urban Magnet Theory as it relates to possibilities for Calvary:

-Granville Island is very enjoyable place; let's look even beyond our block; mixed-use/urban seems to be the future/ people want it as opposed to separating of uses; Scott talked about separation mentioned in the Bible; we don't want sterile and contrived – loved the concrete plant at Granville Island/work being done; want to

know we are in Memphis, animation and spirit - how physical things can point to metaphysical things; the authenticity of Memphis is what sets it apart; we already have several components of Granville Island at Calvary; Calvary could collaborate/cooperate with others, for example, in retail component present in Urban Magnet Theory.

Scott – Where are the places where we feel animated and alive? What are the qualities of those places that make us feel alive?

Kat – sounds like we want to be intentional about planning, but we don't want to throw the baby out with the bath water.

Scott – on our block, yes, we do things for other people, but the people who enter our block also change us and enrich us.

### **Vision Activity – Place and Impact - Part 1**

Imagine it's 2025, and Calvary is a vibrant place that is truly making God's love visible in downtown Memphis. The building and campus helps us be the people we are called to be in the community we are called to serve...

Q #1: What do you see going on in and around the Calvary Campus?

Q #2: How do you see humans interacting with each other in our space?

Each small group's takeaways and themes were presented, and common themes were explored. (See Kate Gordon's Retreat Notes on Basecamp for extensive notes on ideas presented.)

Participants identified their favorite ideas with stars. The group's top 3 enthusiasms were identified and discussed: Welcome Center, Incubator, Green Space. (See Kat Gordon's Retreat Notes on Basecamp for extensive notes on each of these ideas.)

### **January Vestry Meeting was held.**

(See January Vestry Meeting Minutes.)

### **Observation Walkabout:**

Participants walked through Crosstown Concourse, noting our favorite observations and details that make the space feel alive.

### **Vision Activity – Place and Impact – Part II:**

Participants shared observations/favorite things from walkabout: red staircase; boy on scooter – feeling of joy, safety, supervised by all of us; photos of before, during, and after Crosstown renovation; dog; all feel welcome; ice cream; all space used purposefully; all ages using space differently; heads were up – so much to see and notice; spacious, elevated ceiling and long lines of sight; color; surprise around every corner but not random; smells; art exhibit of old signage from original building/info desk made of former rolling conveyor belt; mix of old/new,

rough/smooth; glass instead of solid walls in some places; kept parts of the original building.

### **Alternative Brainstorm:**

Look at the 3 areas with most enthusiasm/energy – WHY do we think these are important?

Greenspace/garden/meditation: Why? Calming; inviting; reminder of God's miracles; requires less commitment for a stranger to enter a greenspace than to enter a building; educational; connects us to the Earth and to other people, and connects buildings to each other; nontraditional/non-churchy entry point; a reminder of the gift of Creation and the gift of life.

Incubator space: Why? Our mission is to build others up and help them grow; would allow us to share resources with people on a bigger scale; preaching the gospel in a different way; different kinds of people and groups would meet at space (in coffee shop example); great place for Calvary people to gather; something being made/created in our space is energizing. Ex: Thistle and Bee.

Welcome Center: Why? welcome; visibility; point guests to the person/place that can meet their needs; draw in people/spark curiosity; encourage participation; makes it ok to ask questions.

Q: Now imagine – no money to do the above projects. What could we do with no money to accomplish the “Whys” above? How could we still get the things we want above? (See Kat Gordon's Retreat Notes on Basecamp for responses.)

We showed appreciation to the person on our left, and then Scott shared the poem, “A Perfect Mess” by Mary Karr.

Scott – re Capital Campaign:

-still in listening phase with campaign consultants; will enter feasibility study in late spring/early summer; later in year, have a capital campaign if we decide this is the way to go.

-quote from Churchill: “We shape our buildings, and thereafter, our buildings shape us.”

-What we are doing is going to change us and how we interact with others.

### **Presentation by David Lusk and Charles Shipp:**

Updates and proposal from Herron Horton architects.

-decided early on not to hire an architect from our church

-looked at Crosstown Concourse and spoke to Todd Richardson re Crosstown space

- contacted Herron Horton, a husband-wife architect team in Little Rock, AR to get ideas; they visited and toured Calvary and our block. They noted that what we do inside our building currently can't be seen.
- Herron Horton created renderings – these renderings were shown to us.
- Proposal – engage Heron Horton to continue?
- separate person is engaged for Nave and chancel
- will have a separate organ discussion
- separate consultant brought in for kitchen
- Loews Hotel will be across the street from us; downtown is changing rapidly for the good; we need to make a statement that we are part of the change and want to be a vibrant part of bringing people downtown.

Blessing and Dismissal.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie Bethell, Clerk