



**The Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church
Online Board Meeting - [Minutes](#)
Thursday February 12, 2015 8:00pm EDT**

Call to Order

8:01pm EST

Opening Prayer

Matthew

Review/Update/Amend 2015 Goals

Scott

1. Successful conference in 2015 in St. Louis
2. General Convention: Many vergers helping
3. Membership: Total automation with human outreach: clean the roles, attract vergers, track-measure-increase membership revenue
4. Annual Conference Planning: Guidebook, Strategy, and Proactive

Approval of prior meeting Minutes

Cheryl

Duke motion, Michael second. Approved.

Chaplain's Report

Matthew

Matthew plans to send out an email to the membership, Michael to help. Matthew plans on being at the Conference Wednesday through Sunday. Michael to include info on his being at the conference in the email blast. Conversation on prayer list and how to handle. Only has 2-3 spots for the July 2015 pilgrimage, so not promoting to the VGEC membership in 2015, but is working on 2016 (dates sometime between July 3 and July 18) Kent/Canterbury co-sponsored by FOCUS, VGEC, Rev. Corkern, and Dean Willis of Canterbury; he will have complete information at the 2015 Annual Conference.

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Financial Report

Duke

Financial report was given by Duke, 2014.12.31 Bank Summary end of year.pdf is in Google Drive. Balance Sheet and Transaction report for 2014 also submitted, ready for Audit Committee. Scott said he would follow up with the Audit Committee which he has not done in 2015. Audit Committee (John Whitaker and Ann Davis McClain) are working on it. Will get them the 2014. Motion to accept the financial report, made by Margaret, second Terry.

Committee Roster Review/Amend/Approval

Scott

Motion to approve the [committee roster](#) as attached in the Google Drive for this meeting: made by Michael, second Richard. Passed.

Nominations

Scott

- Need to round out the Nominations Committee
- Bill White, outgoing class of 2015; Kent Wingerson; David Jette; **Mabel Ayr;** **Grace Parker** (first 3 have agreed to serve, next two will be asked)
- Motion to approve: Richard, second: Duke. Motion passed.

Training

Bill/Duke

Duke - 286 Fellows, 4 pending for 2015. 544 enrollees in the course; 439 active students. Of those 91, have not submitted an enrollment form. New course continues to be received very well, several have switched over to the new course. When we rolled the course out, we sent the new copy to everyone. The majority of those enrolled are switching over to the new one. The enrollment process is that you have to have a valid membership (trial for 6 months is OK), enrollment is the first step of the course. When they purchase, they are not enrolled, they are enrolled when their enrollment form is submitted. Priest mentor gets a PDF copy of the course also. Rector-Vicar-Priest in Charge submits form saying they have completed. When complete, they become a "pending" fellow and are able to purchase the "Fellows Virge" from the Guild Shop. They do not get their certificate or official Fellow designation until the conference. The virges also get shipped when the student finishes the course. This avoids the last minute crunch up to the conference. We also have had a large number of people who never heard back about their course completions. Betty Moore is Training Course Registrar and Duke will be working with her in the future to bring her into the process.

Annual Conference

Terry

Update on 2015: Sent email in December regarding information regarding conferences if anyone had information - received a few responses. What you see on the verger website or verger emails is the only information that we have at the present time. Feels things are going OK with the St. Louis Conference as Terry and Pat have spoken with Shug, the conference chairman. Shug has been hard to reach. Much discussion followed about the 2015 conference and the board is looking forward to being on site on April 16-17, 2015 for meetings and updates.

Update on 2016 and Conference Book: So far Dallas is handling the 2016 conference quite well. The book is coming along well too focusing on how to run future conferences.

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Update on future conferences: Where do we want to have 2017 and 2018? Suggestions and contact information would be appreciated. Input from various members: For 2017 and possibly 2018 the board will be directing where we want the conferences as our formal processes for soliciting and vetting potential conference sites needs to be rebuilt. Various specific sites of interest were discussed - Terry and Scott will follow up. Geographical location, strategic vision (where we want to be, how we can support and build chapters, verger-development, leadership development, all are very important. This will be an agenda item for the April board meeting.

General Convention

Margaret

We have a 200 sq ft booth with entrances on 3 sides in the Exhibit Hall. We will be quite visible. Has requested money from the treasurer to complete payment on the booth. If we need extra items in the booth there may be additional charges for those items. Cindy Ware has volunteered to be the booth coordinator and for other assistance as needed. We need a firm schedule of people who will be in the booth. Board members need to be there as much of the time as possible. At least 2-3 days each. Margaret to follow up and get information about GC to all board and committee members to encourage them to attend. Communication theme: 1) Training Course 2) Join us. Michael reported on that - Communications Committee is ready to lead the charge with printed pieces needed, also work on handouts and giveaways.

Membership

Cheryl

Definition of "Retired" Membership. Email will be sent to the board members to review a statement - this topic will continue to be explored and finished. Betty Moore getting back up to speed on membership data audit, about 400 records have been updated in the past few months and need to be reviewed. She is also working on contacting each of the 45 parishes that have Parish Memberships to clean up that list (consistent expiration dates, names updated, email addresses, etc.) We are working on ideas to increase paid members. We know vergers are out there, how do we get them on the rolls? Reservations for the April 16-18th board meeting in St. Louis can be made by calling the hotel. They have a rooming list with the board members names on it listed under Shug's name. The cost is supposed to be the same as the conference in October.

Chapter Development

Rich/Richard

Both members had a phone conference. Richard is reporting as Rich is out of the country. Lori heading up things up in Atlanta. Cindy Ware is trying to help with a chapter in Lexington, KY. Planning a committee conference call in April. Planning committee for North Carolina met recently and is planning a meeting in the next month. North Carolina will be video taping things that go on in their Diocese and wants to video he verger meeting. It was suggested to ask the Bishop if he will let the Guild use it for verger TV.

Communication and Technology

Michael

Something the board might want to discuss is "what might happen if someone was run over by a truck" what would happen. We might need to start to hire someone to do

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some of the things we have done in the past. Bill White reminded the board this was discussed a couple of years ago and it would cost a bit of money to do so. This conversation can be a topic of discussion at the April board meeting. We probably need to broaden the volunteer basis.

Guild Shop

Barry

(By Scott for Barry, Barry was ill) Conference Registrations going well. Still testing but already have 10 registrations. Working with Duke on Fellows Virges, process, course purchases.

New Business

All

We had bad reverberation on this conference call. We will use freeconferencecall.com for the next phone meeting and see if that is better. Conference details for the next online meeting will be:

Online Screen: join.me/vergerguild (just join the meeting and you will see the shared screen)

Audio Dial-in Number: +1 (712) 432-1500, access Code: 637414#

Cheryl will test phone number before sending out info to the group.

(Host Access Code/Meeting ID: 637414* on for President and Secretary to use - whoever makes the first call into the meeting)

Important Upcoming Events and Notes

- **On Site Board Meeting:** April 16-17, arrive Thursday night, finish Saturday at noon.
- **Engaged Board:** The #1 way we can be successful!
- **Blog Topics:** Please help Ken with the blog, story ideas needed, help in writing and development
- **Committee Meetings:** All committee members need to be actively engaged. That's our way to continue to build an ACTIVE guild.
- Check vergers.org email often!

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Cantrall
Secretary