Greater Cathedral Chapter

The members of the Greater Cathedral Chapter are elected by the Chapter itself and approved by the Diocesan Convention (under the revised Canons). Currently, Fr. Eugene Kohlbecker and Mr. Fred Heasley comprise the Greater Chapter. This is their report:

The Chapter exhibits an awareness of its responsibility to the diocese as well as to the Cathedral itself. This is evident in the Chapter's modeling of effective leadership, it's eagerness to share ministries with the diocese (e.g. the *St. James Praise Team*, Loaves and Fishes work for Chrism Mass, hosting Diocesan Convention every third year, encouraging Jason Beschinski's work as both cathedral youth ministry and diocesan youth director, and making cathedral staff available to assist other parishes with questions and as a resource).

The Commission structure of the Chapter provides opportunities for lay leaders to accept and execute leadership roles in Christ's ministry at the cathedral. This is a model that can be shared with the entire diocese as efficient and collegial. While very appropriate to a larger program sized congregation, it could be applied on a smaller scale in churches of much smaller size. Too often, it has been observed that many of our clergy suffer burn-out and disillusionment by taking on too many projects which could have been well handled by lay leaders and others.

The lay leadership of the Chapter, especially the Wardens (Kirk Philippsen and Nancy Noecker) is very strong. The Dean and Wardens lead by building up others, by recognizing and strengthening the talents and gifts other members of the Chapter have received, by themselves taking seriously their roles of leadership and by living into the gifts of the Holy Spirit they have received. The Dean and Wardens, through their encouragement, allow people to feel good about accomplishing the tasks set before them. Chapter members take pride in their work and file informative reports on the work each of their commissions is accomplishing for every Chapter meeting. This makes meetings more efficient and informative.

The Cathedral Chapter works hard not only to accomplish the ministry of its own congregation but also to be a model to the larger diocese. It consistently works with the attitude that what is accomplished within the cathedral community can be a model and resource to the greater diocese.

In the midst of larger issues facing the Church, the Cathedral Chapter models the maintaining of a safe environment for all to enter for worship, prayer, encountering Jesus Christ through Word and Sacrament – all while sharing their concerns and opinions in an atmosphere of non-judgmental acceptance. It is truly a working community committed to spiritual health and transformation in Jesus Christ.

Yours in the Love of Jesus Christ,

Fr. Eugene Kohlbecker and Mr. Fred Heasley
Members of the Greater Chapter