Lee-Jackson Windows timeline (abbreviated)

Installation

1931: Cathedral Canon Arthur Rudd reports that several members of the Texas Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) would like to place a memorial to Robert E. Lee in the Cathedral. Bishop Freeman and Cathedral staff discuss installation of a tablet. The Cathedral Committee on Monuments and Memorials passes a resolution accepting an offer from the UDC to fund a tablet for the Crypt.

1947-49: Dean Suter suggests a memorial on the Nave level “would be more commensurate with the importance of General Lee” and proposes a bay memorializing Lee and a second person. The go-ahead from the national UDC for the Lee Memorial Bay is published in the Washington Times Herald. Subsequently, concerns are raised at the national UDC convention that the second personage in the bay “would not be worthy of Lee” and the proposal to fund the memorial is defeated. The motion passes the following year.

1951-52: Chair of the Cathedral’s Robert E. Lee Memorial Committee suggests Jackson as the subject of the second window in the bay, and a northern donor agrees to fund the Jackson window. An artist is chosen, and the design proceeds to depict episodes in the lives of Lee and Jackson for the window designs.

1953: Dean Sayre officiates at the dedication of the Lee-Jackson Bay.

A fuller timeline, including sections from letters written during this time, is available See the Task Force Report of 2016.

Removal

2015: Dean Gary Hall preaches a sermon calling for the removal of the Lee-Jackson Windows in light of the Charleston massacre. The Cathedral Chapter appoints a Windows Task Force to study the issue and make a recommendation to the Chapter. (continued next page)
2016: After six months of study, the Task Force recommends that the windows remain for a period of two years and serve as the catalyst for “difficult and uncomfortable conversations about race” and commits to dedicating resources to “engage the issues of race and the legacy of slavery.” The Chapter also votes to remove the images of the Confederate flag contained within the two windows.

2016-17: The Cathedral increases programming relevant to race and racial justice, and hosts two panel presentations on the history and context of the windows and of Lee and Jackson.

2017: In spring 2017, the Cathedral Chapter reviews the activities of the previous year and begins considering the decision regarding the windows. Dean interviews consultants to support a dialogue process.

In mid August, the Cathedral Chapter holds a meeting to discuss the Lee-Jackson windows process in light of the events in Charlottesville. Staff and Chapter members begin compiling information that would be necessary in the event of the removal of the windows (e.g. identifying a process for physical removal and storage of the windows). In the context of renewed attention to Confederate monuments and possible protest, staff also lay plans to ensure the safety of Cathedral Close as students prepare to return to school.

In late August, the Dean and Vicar host two conversations with the congregation in response to Charlottesville, at which the windows are brought up. The Dean also meets with the Cathedral’s Racial Justice Advisory Committee.

On September 6th, the Cathedral announces the removal of the windows and holds a deconsecration service that evening before beginning the removal process. By September 7th, the Lee-Jackson Windows have been removed and placed in storage until the decision is made about their future home.

The letter from Dean Hollerith, Bishop Budde, and Chapter Chair John Donoghue is available online at cathedral.org/windows, along with more information and resources.