

Holy Spirit Vestry Meeting
Minutes for Wednesday, March 12, 2025
5:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Present: Molly Bowler (Sr. Warden), Charlie Swannack (Jr. Warden), Terri Ann Grotzinger (Co-Rector), Beverley Sherman, Patti Beckley, Gretchen Strohmaier (Co-Rector), Alice Caplins, Keith Kuhn, Blake Lineweaver (Clerk), Jim Wiley, Julie Benson

Opening Prayer: Jim opened the meeting with a prayer.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made and approved to accept the meeting minutes from February 12.

Financial Report:

Income for the month was \$23,951 over budget, the result of the transfer of the 2025 Memorial Foundation contribution into our account. It should be noted that both Plate and Annual Giving income was basically on budget for the month. Through February, our income is \$68,880 over budget. In addition to the Memorial Foundation contribution, prepaid Annual Giving is the major reason for this.

Total expenses for the month of February were less than \$500 over budget, entirely the result of delayed payment of payroll withholding from 2024 and FICA expenses (payment of both was delayed because of Connie's Covid). Advertising was also \$600 over budget for the month. Through January, our expenses are \$10,500 below budget, primarily because of the timing of budgeted maintenance, insurance costs and capital spending.

Year to date we have a surplus of \$79,390, which is likely to diminish as we ramp up capital spending and other activities, and Annual Giving income slows (due to prepayments and summer).

A motion was made and approved to accept the financial report as read.

A motion was made and approved to create an Audit team consisting of Sue Lowery, A'Lisa Scott, and Sara Streeter and to pay the team an honorarium of \$1,500 total.

Building and Grounds: Charlie gave updates on several items.

- A committee created guidelines for renting the parish hall:
 - 1) they provide their own insurance,
 - 2) there is a parishioner involved,
 - 3) there's to be no alcohol served, and
 - 4) a \$75 cleaning fee will be assessed (unless waived on an individual basis),
 - 5) Rentals would be episodic, not a standing arrangement.
- The group discussed how we could approach marketing the Parish Hall as a rentable space to external organizations. Recommendations can be made by Vestry.

- Beverley is coordinating a deep cleaning of the kitchen before Spring Market and giving everything a once-over, including electrical, laminate, hinges, etc. Beverley would appreciate a volunteer base from the parish to support this effort.
- Jim Taylor will work with Kent on coordinating the courtyard updates. The courtyard will have some initial work (grass seeding, simple shrubs, sprinklers) while a more thorough plan of the courtyard is considered. Terri recommended thinking of this project in phases: Phase 1 being simple cosmetic upgrades to make the space useful, phase 2 for intentional planning, and phase 3 for implementation.

Social Concerns' Sanctuary Policy: Jim Wiley reminded Vestry of the letter sent from Social Concerns on February 18. The group considered the role and definition of political action within the context of the national church and the Gospel. Rev. Terri advised Vestry not to shy away from community action.

A motion was made to affirm the February 18 message sent and request further clarification on specific action(s) from the committee that Vestry can consider.

Purchasing a Chancel Speaker: The chancel (the choir area) has poor audio and limits the ability for choir members to hear the sermon and readings. Gretchen reached out to a sound company who provided a quote of \$2,477 for various equipment to boost the audio volume/quality of the chancel. Gretchen will present the equipment selection to Nancy and the choir for their review. Beverley asked if the speakers could be expanded to the Parish Hall, when/if they begin to deteriorate.

A motion was made to approve the \$2,477 quote subject to Nancy's approval.

Preview/Holy Week and Easter Services; Easter Hospitality: Molly shared that planning will be coordinated in the next week or so for Easter Hospitality. Several Vestry members will be gone, so Molly suggested scoping out potential volunteers to supplement. Patti recommended that Anne and the reception committee could be kindly approached to prepare and clean up. A clean-up crew should be planned to mitigate food waste and spoilage.

Spring Worship Calendar/Overview: Gretchen updated the Vestry that the spring preaching calendar will feature a balance of one "guest" preacher, a morning prayer, and back and forth preaching from Gretchen and Terri for April/May. Gretchen and Terri will be visiting chaplains at Camp Marshall this summer.

New Rector Search: Bill Drummond is leading the search and organizing a committee.

Lightning Round on Last Year's Goals; "Where are we now?": Committee leaders provided two to three sentence updates.

- Family Worship: Godly Play has kicked off well; there are five teachers and great energy around program development. The group is looking to provide more

education to the congregation on what Godly Play is and does. Beverley is supporting the ministry as a Vestry representative.

- Young Adults: Under 40 visitors continue to find Holy Spirit and are plugged in through Newcomer activities.
- Marketing: Ads have been created for the Roxy, Symphony, and radio. A blog with a more personal approach will be advertised through Facebook/Instagram.
- Wholly Fun: Great fun being had, lots of great activities!
- Accountability: Financials are sound, attendance is solid. The group has suggested a survey be remodeled from 2023 Annual Meeting to better understand their perspective on Holy Spirit. The search committee is likely to create something similar.

Retreat Reminders: Molly suggested Vestry consider ways to keep the culture of Holy Spirit optimistic and progressing considering challenging circumstances. The Vestry Retreat will consist of a dinner on April 4 at the Bowlers then April 5 from 9:30 to 3pm at Holy Spirit. For homework, Vestry members are encouraged to review the Annual Reports from this year's Annual Meeting. Molly will coordinate a meet-up with Julie Benson and Blake Lineweaver who regretfully will be missing the retreat.

Laptop for Terri: *A motion was made and approved for Terri to purchase a new laptop that is Windows 11 compatible.*

Closing: Rev. Terri closed the meeting with a prayer of gratitude for HSP's leadership, congregation, and sense of place. Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Lineweaver

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Clerk of the Vestry