

Holy Spirit Vestry Meeting
Minutes for Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026
5:30p.m., Parish Hall

Present: Molly Bowler (Sr. Warden), Charlie Swannack (Jr. Warden), Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier (Co-Rector), Terri Grotzinger (Co-Rector) Jim Wiley (Treasurer), Patti Beckley, Lance Collister, Jim Taylor, Julie Benson, Beverley Sherman, Keith Kuhn, Alice Caplins, and Jim Taylor

Opening Prayer: Charlie Swannack opened the meeting with a prayer for shelter, safety, and hope for our neighbors who are homeless.

New Rector Search: (See written report from Bill Drummond)

- Temporary Summer Clergy: Jim Taylor spoke about a plan to gear up this effort in late February/early March once we have an idea about candidate timelines. He and Keith will reach out to local possibilities in the near term and would welcome contacts/ideas about priests in the region who might consider this work.
- Candidate Visits: Vestry should reserve Saturday lunches in April following Easter for potential meetings with candidates. Plans include a Saturday morning meeting with candidates for the Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the meeting minutes from Dec. 10 with the correction of Leslie McShane's name.

Financial Report: Our financial report for 2025 underlines very clearly the degree to which Holy Spirit is prepared for, and looking forward to, a major transition. Thanks to "truly overwhelming" support from our parishioners, to Rev. Terri's generosity to serve without compensation, to the slow but steady growth of our congregation and to good control of our spending, we are ending 2025 with a surplus of over \$115,000! Annual Gifts or Pledges especially improved in 2025, increasing 14% over the prior year.

Key items impacting our 2025 results compared to Budget included:

- On the Income side, in addition to the increase in Annual Gifts –
 - Several unanticipated but very much appreciated gifts, totaling \$49,200
 - A 13% increase in support through our Spring and Holiday Markets
- And, on the expense side –
 - Nearly on budget salaries/compensation (only items over budget were added support positions for Pastoral Care and Godly Play, and for the Audit of our 2024 results)
 - Much better control of our operating expenses including a much- appreciated reduction in copier costs
 - Over-budget (\$10,354) spending on capital improvements, including redoing our lawn and shrubbery, a final payment of the deductible on our roof damage and installation of security cameras and the sound system in the Chancel

In summary, this year's surplus will allow us to recover some of the investment used last year for our major courtyard project and give us the savings needed to manage the financial aspects of our just-started Rector Search.

New Vestry Members: The new slate of Vestry members for 2026 was approved, including Patti Beckley, Anne Geiger, Mary Beth Jourdonnais and Leslie McShane.

Retiring Vestry Members: With appreciation for all of their contributions during a busy term, the Vestry thanked Alice Caplins, Jim Wiley (who will remain as Treasurer) and Blake Lineweaver.

Senior Warden Election: Molly Bowler was elected Senior Warden for 2026.

Building and Grounds: Charlie Swannack reported on the completion of the ceiling repair in the sanctuary, the final step in recovering from the windstorm damage in summer 2024. We also discussed lighting in the chancel. Charlie and Connie Gerke will meet to review the repair budget and insurance payments.

Jesse Jaeger Diaconal Report: Vestry received and approved the report of the Diaconal Discernment Recommendations for Jesse Jaeger, who hopes to become deacon and to serve the Holy Spirit community. After discussion, Vestry approved funding of \$9,000 over three years to cover seminary tuition and diocesan fees, with the suggestion that we would be open to considering further specific requests regarding travel costs.

Poverello Overflow Effort: Gretchen Strohmaier and Charlie Swannack provided an update on preparations for potential hosting of people from the POV the weeks of Feb. 1 and Feb. 22. Charlie and Alice Caplins are developing instructions for HSP volunteers. Gretchen has a slate of about 20 volunteers and a draft schedule. Bev is providing detail on necessary cleaning protocols. Gretchen will hear from the organizing group by 10 each day whether we are “on” or “off.” We need to see insurance documentation from MIC or acquire our own rider – Gretchen will follow up.

Food Bank Effort: Vestry discussed the success of this program and whether, ideally, it should continue beyond the initial year. Everyone appreciates the cause itself and how universal it is, how well organized the Food Bank is, and the clear appeal of this work to HSP people of every age. Participation has been strong.

Vestry expressed the hope that our Food Bank effort would continue through at least one additional year, with the possibility of a third year, TBD. Molly and Gretchen will work to add parish volunteers to the program’s leadership and working committee, recognizing that Audrey Murray will cycle off this project in spring.

Brief Items –

- ***Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting Jan. 25 – there will be a brief meeting of the new Vestry immediately afterwards***
- Jackie Clark Espinoza has joined the office staff!
- Upcoming Lenten Activities
 - Pancake Supper Feb. 17
 - The Practice of Fasting Feb. 21
 - Conscious Eating Potluck & Food Trivia Night March 4

- In March, Food Insecurity Panel
- Please keep in mind we'll be discussing "leave-taking" celebrations for our co-rectors once the new Vestry is formed.
- Molly expressed her appreciation for the many outstanding contributions of this Vestry and how many projects had moved forward over this year, from major repairs and new landscaping to launching the rector search, a new woman's group, security plans, great spring and fall sales, and more, alongside a strong stewardship result.

Closing Prayer and Adjournment: Rev. Gretchen closed the meeting in prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Blake Lineweaver

Blake Lineweaver
Clerk of the Vestry