



**St Philip's**  
episcopal church

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## Vestry Meeting Minutes

Monday April 22, 2024

### Attendance

Vestry Present: Lowell Darbegh  
Sue Guptill  
Sarah Johnson  
Wes Newman  
Shamieka Rhinehart  
Mike Uhl

Erin Gasch  
Rebecca Hix, *Sr. Warden*  
Marty Nelson  
Jeff Pitts  
Liz Sappenfield, *Jr. Warden*  
Richard Williams

Vestry Absent: None

Clergy: Rev. Maryann Younger, *Rector and Chair*

Guests: Matthew Snider, *Treasurer*  
David Kneeburg, *Clerk*

### Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church convened on April 22, 2024, at 6:09 PM in the Parish Library with the Rector presiding. Maryann welcomed the group back after a weekend retreat and recognized David Kneeburg as the new Vestry Clerk. Lowell shared a reflection on positive thinking, followed by an opening prayer about April and springtime.

### Consent Agenda

- Minutes of the March Vestry meeting
- Treasurer's Report and Simplified Financial Report covering March
- Rector's Report
- Senior Warden's Report
- Junior Warden's Report
- Q1 Investment Reports from Investor's Trust and Hamilton Point

A brief discussion opened on the definition of unrestricted amounts in the treasurer's report. Richard moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Lowell seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

## **Discussion**

### Bishop Jennifer's Visit

Maryann shared details about Bishop Jennifer's May 19 Pentecost visit. On Pentecost, Bishop Jennifer will be with us for the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. She'll preach and preside, and at the 11 a.m. service we'll also have baptisms and confirmations. Plus, Bishop Jennifer will join our Adult Forum session and engage in lunch and discussions with the vestry. Maryann noted that last year's lunch with Bishop Sam resulted in good feedback.

### Acoustic Analysis

Liz summarized the history of the acoustic analysis proposal. Lewis requested professional analysis of the space in 2023. Reidel Associates was chosen as the contractor and provided a proposal and quotation in March of 2023. (Liz noted that the proposal is still valid in 2024 – confirmed by Reidel). They will examine materials, speakers, choir position and more in their analysis. The committee will fold these results into other space considerations. There was a brief discussion about Reidel's travel costs, which are in addition to the project proposal of \$15,750. Travel costs are unknown as yet, but the consultant expects to be on-site for one day of testing work.

Shamiaka moved to approve the funding, Sue seconded, the motion carried unanimously.

### Weekend Retreat at the Trees

Over the weekend, the vestry and staff held a retreat at the Trees. Maryann and Rebecca expressed their gratitude to the group for their open, honest, and inspiring participation.

### Retreat Visioning Process

Continuing their retreat discussion, the vestry engaged in a visioning exercise, led by Rebecca. The group distilled their feedback from the retreat sessions and started reviewing the next steps. Rebecca proposed a visioning spiral plan for the remainder of 2024 where the congregation explores questions about God in our community that will gradually form a corporate vision from our individual passions. She guided the group through the proposed 10 steps of the spiral.

Sue noted that information can come from other groups (such as "Rich and Poor" forums) as well as the visioning exercises. Jeff asked if vestry should be trained as facilitators for exercises or ask experienced parishioners. Sue noted that the schedule is important to keep in sync with other ongoing discernments (ex. The Trees). Maryann spoke about important dates in the calendar that can be featured in visioning goals (ex. St. Philip's day in October). Also, the group discussed that 2024 is the time for strategic visioning and 2025 will be the time for action.

## Standing Committee Reports

### Staffing

Sarah and Maryann both celebrated the hiring of Amanda. There was a short discussion on staff pregnancies and the current family leave policy.

### Finance

The budget planning for 2025 continues. Duncan has been very helpful in the creation of subgroups to help with the process. There are no actions currently, a key guideline is determining where we *want* to spend money. Subgroups are also in tandem with stewardship committee planning.

### Directory

Jeff reported about learning Realm settings and methods. He is ready to start talking with Amanda regarding administrative control. The group considered that the best way to start is to create a Realm vestry group and use it to build habits (share files, events, etc.). Sue noted that there would be some difficulty with scheduling integration - due to different settings between MSP (Ministry Scheduler Pro) and Realm.

## Executive Session

An executive session was not required.

## Epistle Talking Points

As published in the week following the meeting:

### **Vestry Highlights**

*The vestry met Monday, April 22. Here's what happened:*

*Maryann shared details about **Bishop Jennifer's May 19 Pentecost visit**. On Pentecost, Bishop Jennifer will be with us for the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services. She'll preach and preside, and at the 11 a.m. service we'll also have baptisms and confirmations. Plus Bishop Jennifer will join our Adult Forum session and engage in lunch and discussions with the vestry. Mark your calendars and remember to wear red!*

*The vestry **approved funding for an acoustic analysis of the church** as part of our interior renovation planning. This analysis will thoroughly assess our current acoustics and recommend improvements for the experience of both music and spoken word.*

*Last Saturday the **vestry and staff came together for a weekend visioning retreat** at The Trees, where they explored questions about God's vision for St. Philip's. On Monday night, the vestry continued the visioning conversation and **reviewed a plan to engage the whole congregation in our visioning process** in coming months. The process will result in a vision statement by the end of the year – stay tuned!*

## **Adjournment**

Maryann noted that the vestry will not meet in May, but the informational vestry package will be sent out as normal. She thanked the group for their energy and offered a closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kneeburg, Clerk of the Vestry