



Vestry Meeting Minutes

Monday August 26, 2024

Attendance

Vestry Present: Erin Gasch
Rebecca Hix, *Sr. Warden*
Wes Newman
Shamieka Rhinehart
Mike Uhl
Sue Guptill
Sarah Johnson
Jeff Pitts
Liz Sappenfield, *Jr. Warden*
Richard Williams

Vestry Absent: Lowell Dargbeh
Marty Nelson

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

Guests: Matthew Snider, *Treasurer*
David Kneeburg, *Clerk*
Treat Harvey
Laura Nichols

Call to Order

The regular monthly meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church convened on August 26, 2024, at 6:07 PM in a video conference call with the Rector presiding. Sarah led the group in opening prayer with a daily devotion from the Book of Common Prayer

Consent Agenda

- Minutes of the July Vestry meeting
- Treasurer's Report and Simplified Financial Report covering August
- Rector's Report
- Senior Warden's Report
- Junior Warden's Report
- The Trees Report
- Standing Committee Updates

Erin requested clarifications in the July minutes. David will edit prior to uploading. Richard moved approval of the Consent Agenda, Mike seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Discussion

Approval of Audit

Matthew gave an overview of the recent financial audit. St. Philip's received a "Clear Audit Opinion" where all financial statements are presented fairly and in conjunction with all requisite practices. Additional details are listed in the August Treasurer's report. The Finance committee recommended the Vestry vote to approve at the meeting to meet the Diocese's September 1st deadline. Liz moved to approve, Mike seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

EHM Committee

Matthew presented an update on the Episcopal Housing Ministry funding. The new bank account is ready and deposits are expected in the next 7-10 days. The committee will be formed of 3-5 members with one member from the vestry, one member from the Finance Committee, and the Treasurer. Discussion followed with candidate suggestions and possible collaboration with the Campus Study Group and Durham CAN.

Landscaping along Main Street

Liz introduced concepts for planting along the Main Street edge of the Church property. The Vestry discussed the grounds and how they are used during the week and overnight by unhoused individuals in the community. Members suggested having discussions with other downtown churches in Durham and Episcopal churches nationwide (in urban centers). Consensus arrived with planting a few small beds and opening a new discussion in late 2024 or early 2025 on bigger plans – that connect with ongoing visioning talks.

Outreach committee funding recommendations

Maryann summarized the Outreach Committee's mid-year recommendations for \$5,000 in funding for the Johnson Service Corps and \$2,500 for You Can Vote. The vestry discussed parishioner engagement with both organizations. Mike moved to approve, Sue seconded, the motion was carried unanimously.

St. Philip's Day and Commitment Sunday

Richard and Sarah opened a discussion on St. Philip's Day activities (October 13th) and the tie-in with stewardship. The vestry discussed activity examples, facilitators, information tables, and a potluck supper. Maryann suggested announcing details by mid-September.

2025 Stewardship Campaign

Laura and Treat updated the Vestry on Stewardship plans for 2024. They asked the vestry to participate in the September 8th forum and phone calls over a 5-week period between now and commitment Sunday. They thanked Liz for her work establishing online pledging via Realm. Discussion followed with questions on payment options and bill pay.

Vestry Election Committee

Wes and Shamioka proposed that the 2025 election committee be composed of Gail Albergo, Erin Gasch, Wes Newman, Shamioka Rhinehart, and Freda Tucker in accordance with St. Philip's Bylaws. Discussion followed about keeping track of good candidates year-after-year – the current spreadsheet goes back to 2016. Liz moved to approve the election committee, Sarah seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Visioning

Rebecca asked the Vestry about attendance for the August 28th extravaganza and who can show up early to help prepare. Also, discussion continued regarding Visioning Retreat signups on the 28th, in addition to online/email RSVPs.

Executive Session

An executive session was not required.

Epistle Talking Points

As published in the week following the meeting:

The vestry reviewed plans for fall stewardship. Stewardship Co-Chairs Laura Nichols and Treat Harvey outlined our fall stewardship campaign plan. Stay tuned for more info on the September 8 adult forum – a super fun session on Pledging 101, or "How the heck do I decide what to pledge – and what's a pledge, anyway?"

With the outreach committee's recommendation, the vestry approved funding awards to the Johnson Service Corps and YouCanVote.

We're happy to report St. Philip's passed its 2024 financial audit. A special shout-out to Laura Dearth (St. Philip's esteemed bookkeeper) for keeping us on the straight and narrow track to financial security.

The vestry celebrated our best yet Camp at The Trees! Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make Camp at The Trees happen this August. A record number of children ages 4-12 witnessed God's creation in the woods, water, and creatures (especially in the creek).

The vestry is starting to recruit potential 2025 vestry members. Do you hear the call? A search committee is forming – contact Wes Newman (wnewman@kontek.com) or Shamioka Rhinehart (shamiokar@hotmail.com) to put your name in the ring for leadership, collaboration, and community amongst the lay leadership!

Adjournment

Maryann ended the gathering with a closing prayer, and the vestry meeting concluded at 7:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,

David Kneeburg, Clerk of the Vestry