



Vestry Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2025

Attendance

Vestry Present: Heather Beard
Lowell Dargbeh
Sue Guptill
Marty Nelson, *Sr. Warden*
Mike Uhl, *Jr. Warden*
Caroline Wang

John Bowman
Erin Gasch
Sarah Johnson
Jeff Pitts
Richard Williams
Emily Yeatts

Vestry Absent: -

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

Guests: Duncan Krause
Henry Kennelly
Marcus Southern, *Treasurer*
David Kneeburg, *Clerk*

Call to Order

The May meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church convened on May 27th, 2025, at 6:04 PM in the Library with the Rector presiding. John led the gathering with a group reading of the Serenity Prayer.

Consent Agenda

1. April Minutes
2. April treasurer's report
3. Rector's report
4. Senior Warden's report
5. Junior Warden's report
6. The Trees report

Marty requested to pull out the financial report for more discussion. Henry answered clarifying questions on The Trees report. John motioned to approve the agenda, Richard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report discussion: Marcus reviewed the report and addressed clarifying questions regarding the Audit RFP (request-for-proposal) committee, which will select the firm to handle St. Philips' next audit. The discussion then shifted to quarterly versus monthly cash flow issues. The vestry suggested

several possible solutions, including using CDs during cash crunches, delaying payments, and adjusting Hamilton Point's funding release to the beginning of the quarter.

Emily motioned to approve the Treasurer's report, John seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Discussion

Transitions

Maryann announced the upcoming departure of Richard Williams from the vestry. Richard and his wife Darrell will be returning to their hometown due to a combination of work and housing opportunities. Maryann and the vestry expressed their gratitude for Richard's service throughout the church. Richard mentioned that it was an honor and a pleasure to work on the vestry, and thanked the church for "embracing me, embracing us" during their time at St. Philips. He noted, "I leave you in friendship, trust, and love."

Richard and Darrell's last Sunday will be June 15th. Maryann proposed that the social hour be sponsored by the vestry to honor Richard's tenure. She also noted that at the July Vestry meeting, the members can discuss the next steps regarding the appointment of a new vestry member.

Additionally, Maryann announced that Hannah Flack will be resigning at the end of June from her position as Ryals Minister for Youth and Intergenerational Ministries. She will be pursuing a bi-vocational call to the Masters nursing program at Duke and serving as a diocesan intern. The vestry inquired about the timeframe for replacing her role, to which Maryann responded that the youth program will need re-framing before the next program year. She requested vestry volunteer help with recruiting and programming, and Heather volunteered to assist.

Youth Programming Update

Maryann presented an overview of the J2A programming, which was invented here at St. Philips and still generates royalties from the published curriculum. She discussed the current R13-J2A cohort changes, the structure, and the process of selecting the pilgrimage destination. She also noted the challenges when cohorts overlap with college requirements and searches. Her perspective is that J2A should create a space for the group that is 90% fellowship without parents or teachers, (but with trusted adults). This time of exploration aims to foster a peer-to-peer community within the church.

The vestry noted the lack of participation in this year's cohort – only two children. Next year the cohort will be much larger – seven children will come from R13 and join the two J2A's. Some ideas that the vestry had:

- There is a need for an early pilgrimage as a bonding experience
- More short events in the local area – without phones.
- Combine the pilgrimage selection with other church J2A groups – then weekly programming is separated from pilgrimage topics.

Outreach conversation

Sue presented an introduction to funding the outreach ministry. She emphasized the need for clarity regarding what outreach entails and transparency in how funds are allocated. Additionally, she summarized the church's outreach history, including the establishment of a 10% target, the creation of endowments, and the formation of the finance committee. She then outlined several questions:

- What is the difference between allocating resources and allocating revenue?
- Is the 10% target for resources or revenue?
- What is the timeline for selecting the amount, and which year should it be based on?

Sue then presented three examples of possible formulas for discussion with the group. This generated a discussion within the vestry about tracking funds to help determine the "halo effect" of the church. This effect is expected to be much more than the 10% valuation and demonstrates the impact of St. Philips in the community. Sue concluded by promising to bring a proposal from the Outreach Committee back to the vestry.

Executive Session

An Executive session was not needed.

Epistle Talking Points

As published in the week following the meeting:

The vestry met Tuesday, May 27. Here's what happened:

The meeting began with news of departing staff and vestry members. Vestry member Richard Williams and parishioner Darrell Powell will be returning home to Pennsylvania in a few weeks. Vestry members expressed deep gratitude for Richard's dedicated service and leadership during worship. The vestry also reflected on the upcoming departure of Hannah Flack, Ryals Minister for Youth and Intergenerational Ministries, and celebrated her transformational work over the past year as she prepares to follow her bi-vocational call to ordained ministry and health care.

The vestry held a productive conversation about how to strengthen St. Philip's J2A program moving forward. Maryann shared updates on the J2A youth program, recapping the past academic year and recent pilgrimage activity.

Sue Guptill led a discussion on St. Philip's outreach programs, focusing on how to improve the process for allocating and communicating funding decisions. Vestry members discussed ways to clarify how funding amounts

are determined and explored options for better capturing the broader community impact of our outreach – sometimes called the “halo effect” of the church.

Adjournment

Maryann ended the meeting with a closing prayer and the Vestry adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kneeburg, Clerk of the Vestry