



## Vestry Meeting Minutes

July 28, 2025

### Attendance

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

John Bowman  
Sarah Johnson  
Jeff Pitts  
Emily Yeatts

Vestry Absent: Erin Gasch, Richard Williams

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

Guests: Duncan Krause  
Katie Bracy Limkeman  
Marcus Southern, *Treasurer*  
David Kneeburg, *Clerk*

### Call to Order

The July meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church convened on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at 6:04 PM in the Library with the Rector presiding. Lowell led with an opening prayer and a reflection on the role of the United Nations in turbulent times.

### Consent Agenda

1. May Minutes
2. Treasurer's report
3. Rector's report
4. Senior Warden's report
5. Junior Warden's report

Mike noted a misspelling in the May Minutes, David to correct. Marty asked clarifying questions on the Rector's report concerning volunteers.

John motioned to approve the consent agenda, Lowell seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

## Discussion

### Finance

Marcus and Mike presented an overview of financial status and an expense budget summary with the categories: personnel, administration, campus, education, outreach, worship and diocesan fair share.

During the finance and budget discussion, the vestry emphasized the importance of aligning spending with the vision statement, particularly in the areas of outreach, trees, and capital projects. They stressed the need for subcommittees to consider the vision statement when planning their expenditures and to justify costs accordingly. The vestry also highlighted the importance of addressing priorities to the stewardship committee by September to avoid misalignment, as experienced last year with the timing of The Trees project. They advised a broad approach and suggested pausing before assigning additional tasks to subcommittees, ensuring that all spending decisions are made with the vision in mind.

The vestry also continued to discuss a formula to guide allocation of funds to outreach. Sue reviewed the notes from the previous meeting and proposed a vote on the formula. The main purpose of a formula is to give the outreach committee certainty when planning. Sue motioned that the vestry adopt the following formula:

$$\text{Outreach allocation} = 10\% \text{ of } ((97\% \text{ of pledges}) + \text{endowment income} - \text{diocesan payment})$$

*Where endowment income is the sum of unrestricted fund income and the Ryals income.*

John seconded the motion. Mike offered an amendment to remove the Ryals income, Lowell seconded the motion. A vote was held on the amendment and passed with 7 in favor, 2 opposed, and 2 abstained. Afterwards the vestry voted on the revised formula:

$$\text{Outreach allocation} = 10\% \text{ of } ((97\% \text{ of pledges}) + \text{unrestricted funds} - \text{diocesan payment})$$

The formula was approved by the vestry unanimously.

### The Trees Update

Emily summarized highlights from The Trees report. Henry will soon enter seminary studies, so the director position will be split into two parts such that the staffing cost would be equivalent. The positions would total 32 hours per week. Henry will continue working at The Trees with only accommodation as compensation.

There has been some increase in budget requests due to property operating costs. For example, flooding damage to the driveway was unexpected, and the gutter repair has been prioritized due to the continuous leak damage. Maryann noted that we should delete language in the fundraising section referring to the belief of Jacqueline's wishes that doesn't match the will and testament documents.

Emily presented the proposed slate of persons for The Trees' development committee:

Alexa McKerrow	Duncan Smith	Richard Ammons	Elizabeth Newman
Jeff Pitts	Emily Yeatts	Henry Kennelly	Carolyn Krueger
Fernanda Torres	Laura Kirby	Janice McAdams	

John motioned that the slate be approved, Lowell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### Member Connections Overview

Maryann gave an overview of Member Connections priorities for 2025-2026, with a play together→pray together→pay together (stewardship) methodology. The vestry is tasked with the directory, nametags, and a ministry fair where the staff is focused on signage, workshops, videos, newcomer cards, and parish hall tent cards.

### Quick Items

- ❖ Maryann presented the candidates for Annual Convention Delegates as the following:
  - Paul Jacobson, Year 3 (serves through 2025)
  - Freda Tucker, Year 2 (serves through 2026)
  - Meg McCann, Year 1 (serves through 2027)
  - Duncan Krause, Alternate (serves when needed!)

Mike motioned to approve the delegate candidates, Emily seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

- ❖ Marty presented the appointment of Addis Crooks-Jones as a new vestry member to replace Richard Williams. Addis will serve through the remainder of Richard's term, which concludes at the annual meeting in February. Marty motioned to approve, Jeff seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
- ❖ Maryann asked the vestry to formally approve Marcus Southern as treasurer. Marty motioned to approve, Mike seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Executive Session**

An Executive session was not needed.

### **Epistle Talking Points**

As published in the week following the meeting:

*The vestry met Monday, July 28. Here's what happened:*

*Vestry members discussed budget priorities for 2026. They examined the strengths and weaknesses of various proposals and grants through the lens of the St. Philip's vision statement. They also discussed the formula for outreach contributions and approved a new calculation for 2026 and beyond.*

*The vestry unanimously appointed new vestry member Addis Crooks-Jones to fill the seat left vacant by Richard Williams' recent move. Addis will serve through the remainder of Richard's term, which concludes at the annual meeting in February. The vestry members look forward to welcoming Addis at the August vestry meeting.*

*As The Trees shifts into a new phase of development, a new development committee has been formed to help lead the way. The vestry approved the new development committee: Alexa McKerrow, Duncan Smith, Richard Ammons, Elizabeth Newman, Jeff Pitts, Emily Yeatts, Henry Kennelly, Carolyn Krueger, Fernanda Torres, Laura Kirby, and Janice McAdams. This group will guide and support efforts to envision, plan, and carry out the next stage of development at The Trees.*

*Maryann presented the new slate of delegates for future diocesan conventions: Paul Jacobson (Year 3), Freda Tucker (Year 2), Meg McCann (Year 1), Duncan Krause (Alternate). The vestry unanimously approved the delegates.*

### **Adjournment**

Maryann ended the meeting with a closing prayer and the Vestry adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kneeburg, Clerk of the Vestry