



St Philip's
episcopal church

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Vestry Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2025

Attendance

Vestry Present: Heather Beard

Erin Gasch
Sarah Johnson
Jeff Pitts
Caroline Wang

John Bowman
Lowell Dargbeh
Sue Guptill
Marty Nelson, *Sr. Warden*
Mike Uhl, *Jr. Warden*
Emily Yeatts

Vestry Absent: Addis Crook-Jones

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

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

Call to Order

The October meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church convened on October 27th, 2025, at 6:05 PM in the Library with the Rector presiding. Emily opening the meeting with the poem "What you Missed That Day You were Absent from Fourth Grade" from Brad Aaron Modlin.

Outreach Presentation:

Shamieka provided an update on the Outreach Committee. All funds have been allocated, with only \$30 remaining. The committee discussed the importance of diversity within organizations. The UMD partnership requires a new champion, but Marty noted that a parishioner has volunteered to serve as the point person for UMD.

Erin raised a question about how allocations are monitored, suggesting that calculations should be reviewed mid-year or quarterly. The group agreed on the need to maintain an open check-in process. Most recipients are now sustainable and have regular spending patterns.

Maryann mentioned that we have credit cards available to simplify the reimbursement process. The committee also discussed ways to promote the recipients and considered strategies for advertising when a group needs assistance—for example, asking scouts to help build homeless kits.

Consent Agenda

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

The vestry asked clarifying questions on the Junior Warden's report. John motioned to approve the consent agenda, Marty seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Updates

Audit Selection

Marcus summarized the auditor search: he sent out 10 requests for proposals and received four back. Working with parishoners and Laura Dearth, the group selected Dean Dorton as the best candidate. Marcus expressed gratitude to the temporary committee for their review time. Emily motioned to approve the Dean Dorton as the new auditor, Erin seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Parking

Mike shared the latest findings on a parking management solution for the church. He has consulted with management companies, emphasizing the church's goal to prioritize parking for visitors with the greatest need and to achieve cost-neutral or positive financial results. Some companies have experience working with churches and are willing to waive short-term violations. An affordable and durable solution appears to be within reach.

Stewardship calls

Marty noted that 141 households (up from 129 last year) have pledged, but some households need follow up calls. She asked the vestry for help, starting next week – a phone script is available and Amanda & Treat have vetted the list.

CAN Gala

Marty announced that St. Philips has bought a table at the CAN annual gala on November 22nd. The table is for eight guests, Marty asked for vestry members to RSVP by November 8th.

Nomination Committee

Erin gave an overview of the vestry candidate search. The committee consists of Lowell Dargbeh, Erin Gasch, Sarah Johnson, Jeff Pitts, Shamioka Rhinehart, Liz Sappenfield and Caroline Wang. Erin will send the current "interested" candidate list out to all vestry.

Discussion

Bylaws

Emily provided a summary of the latest feedback on bylaw changes. The adult forum, though a small group, was highly engaged. The vestry reviewed the rules from the North Carolina canons and discussed

options for early voting. The top priorities are ensuring voting accessibility and updating the bylaw text to reflect current vestry practices. The process will continue with a Tuesday email letter, a three-week period for collecting feedback, and finalizing the slate in December.

Solar Panels

Mike requested vestry approval for financing the installation of additional solar panels at St. Philips. The Finance Committee submitted a letter outlining a balanced approach to funding, utilizing the Air, Water, Earth funds (from Ryals endowment), a Green Grant from the North Carolina Episcopal Church Foundation, the Bequest Reserve Fund, and a loan from the same foundation. The vestry reviewed the proposal, asking clarifying questions about the loan and project timeline. A key benefit of this investment is a 30-year lock-in on energy savings. Sue moved to approve the project as described in the Finance Committee's letter, John seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Budget

Marcus and Duncan guided the vestry through a budget comparison for 2025 and 2026, highlighting which line items were favorable or unfavorable. The vestry discussed deficit planning and estimates based on current year-to-date data. At the next meeting, ten months of 2025 financial data will be available for review. Members asked clarifying questions about solar panel financing, the Trees repair budget, and fund restrictions. Mike requested that vestry members submit the budget deficit amounts they are comfortable with on slips of paper for later consideration. Marty also initiated a discussion about clergy salaries, noting that they have not been increased in five years.

Executive Session

An Executive session was required.

Epistle Talking Points

As published in the week following the meeting:

The vestry met Monday, October 27. Here's what happened:

The vestry voted to add more solar panels to the parish house roof, taking advantage of federal incentives before they expire. The project, researched extensively by Junior Warden Mike Uhl, will lock in lower, stable energy costs for up to 30 years and is expected to pay for itself over time.

Shamieka Rhinehart shared how the Outreach Committee will distribute funds in 2026. She noted a strong mix of long-term partners and new recipients. The vestry discussed ways to promote these organizations and connect our community with their work.

The vestry voted to approve a new parish auditor: the firm of Dean Dortan will provide financial audit services for the coming years. Treasurer Marcus Southern expressed gratitude to the vestry and parishioners who helped review proposals.

The vestry began discussing an aspirational budget for 2026, referencing our vision statement while setting

priorities. Marcus Southern, Mike Uhl, and Finance Committee Chair Duncan Krause guided the vestry through initial budget discussions. The vestry is considering both the positive and negative impacts of our new expenses.

Adjournment

Maryann ended the meeting with a closing prayer and the Vestry adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Kneeburg, Clerk of the Vestry