



St Philip's
episcopal church

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Vestry Meeting Minutes

April 27th, 2026

Attendance

Vestry Present:	Heather Beard Jillian Downs Marty Nelson, <i>Sr. Warden</i> Andy Slaughter Mike Uhl, <i>Jr. Warden</i> Caroline Wang	John Bowman Sue Guptill Jeff Pitts Natalie Sommerville Emily Yeatts
Vestry Absent:	Bynum Walter	
Clergy:	Rev. Maryann Younger, <i>Rector and Chair</i> Rev. Gabe Lamazares, <i>Associate Rector</i>	
Guests:	Marcus Southern, <i>Treasurer</i> David Kneeburg, <i>Clerk</i>	

Call to Order

The April meeting of the Vestry of St. Philip's Church convened on April 27th, 2026, at 6:04PM in the library.

Consent Agenda

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

Maryann noted two changes to her report regarding the new parish administrator Patrick Burroughs – David to correct before uploading the package. Marcus noted the quarterly portfolio review from Hamilton Point and the discovery of a holding in Raytheon, an arms manufacturer explicitly listed on the national church's Do Not Buy list. He contacted Hamilton Point and executed a same-day sale of the stock position. Sue motioned to approve the consent agenda, John seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

Updates

Sacred Spaces

Maryann provided an update on the fundraising campaign for interior renovation.

- As of Sunday, the campaign stood at \$178,000; by Monday morning, it had reached \$183,000.
- Raised the question of where surplus funds should go, given that donations were explicitly made for church restoration.
- Discussion noted the existence of a Phase 3 restoration plan as a potential destination for surplus funds and the Finance Committee will consider the appropriate handling of any leftover funds.
- Trinity Sunday (May 31st) will be the last Sunday in the main church sanctuary.
- Some pews will be stored off-site; others can remain stacked, with concern about flooring damage.
- Scaffolding will go up after the congregation moves out; first contractors (other than scaffolding crew) are expected in late June.
- Rebecca Hicks will again serve as project manager for the church move.
- Three services will continue throughout the summer, all held in the parish hall in a unified format.
- No chair flipping between services; social hour will use available spaces (parlor, outside, etc.).

Community connection

Caroline noted that the committee has begun planning the ministry fair tentatively for Mid-September (13th or 20th). There's a call for volunteers in the bulletin and one respondent has come forward so far. Maryann reminded the group to invite outreach partners in addition to ministry groups.

Urban Ministries

John provided an update on the 1st meeting of the UMD committee held last Tuesday evening. The meeting ran longer than planned due to rich discussion and brainstorming. The group agreed to meet once a month and include external voices like graduates of UMD and board members.

The Trees

Emily shared the latest developments at The Trees. The development committee has held several in-person and smaller breakout meetings this spring. A mission statement has been agreed upon:

Among the cathedral of trees, we offer a sacred space to slow down, listen deeply, and tune into God's presence so that one may enter more fully into divine life and return to the tasks of this world with renewed energy, clarity, and hope.

We accomplish this mission through:

- *Regular opportunities for prayer, silence, and sharing*

- *Intentional programming*
- *Practicing hospitality*
- *Nurturing relationships throughout our community*
- *Caring for the beauty of creation.*

Other notes from the presentation:

- Website and merchandise launch forthcoming.
- Third-party rental opportunities are expanding.
- Repairs, maintenance, and operational costs are ongoing.
- The Trees' finances will be reviewed more regularly by the Finance Committee.
- Three key questions for the development committee: (1) optimal organizational structure for independent operations; (2) amount and nature of St. Philip's ongoing financial support; (3) defining the relationship between St. Philip's vision and The Trees' mission.
- Open house at The Trees scheduled for May 14th in the afternoon.

Stewardship

Andy provided an update on the formation of the stewardship committee. Andy and Bynum plan to invite former members and chairs to start the process. Diantha Daniels has expressed interest in a co-chair position and asked if a job description was available. Maryann noted that Treat Harvey may already have written one.

Discussion

Leadership opportunities

The vestry discussed several open leadership roles, including the need for a diocesan convention delegate and a broader conversation about leadership succession. Maryann noted that there are openings not due to lack of leaders but due to matchmaking challenges.

Duncan Krause has confirmed his willingness to continue supporting the finance committee – but succession planning should start this year.

A convention delegate role is open -- A three-year commitment; two current delegates are Freda Tucker (entering her third year) and Meg (entering her second year); one new delegate is needed for a first-year slot. The new delegate must be approved at a vestry meeting; the July vestry meeting is the target.

Vestry members also noted that before the pandemic, a three-year term limit for committee chairs was in place, encouraging succession planning. This culture was disrupted by the pandemic and has not been fully restored.

Midyette Fund

Marcus presented an overview of the Midyette fund that receives J2A royalties and is designed to cover ongoing maintenance of the Journey to Adulthood curriculum (copyright, trademark, and administrative expenses.) The fund currently has an approximate balance of \$14,000.

A new proposal for fund management was proposed that would allow the distribution of funds over a \$5,000 reserve balance. Vestry members requested an amendment that would change the following language: The term "parental support" was amended to "stakeholder support" to be more inclusive. "Ryals Youth Minister" was amended to "Ryals Family Minister" to reflect Emily's current dual role.

The vestry voted unanimously to approve the amendment. The final language of the proposal is as follows:

"The fund shall be used to supplement and support Christian education, to include the Journey 2 Adult Pilgrimage and Urban Orienteering programming, at St. Philip's.

\$5000 dollars will be kept in the fund to provide for the maintenance of the Journey 2 Adult curriculum. Any funds over \$5,000 will be accessible for use by the Ryals Family Minister. To access the funds, the Minister should present a proposal to the Vestry, in which the Minister would provide evidence of parish support. Once the Vestry approves the proposal, the funds will be granted by St. Philip's. There is no annual time limit on spending the accumulated funds; unspent balances carry over from year to year.

Marty motioned to approve the proposal, Mike seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Maryann's Sabbatical

Marty celebrated Maryann's upcoming sabbatical and thanked her on behalf of the vestry. Maryann asked the vestry and staff to make decisions confidently in her absence rather than wait on her return. Her first week back will be dedicated to meetings with wardens and staff members for executive summaries. She expressed deep gratitude for the sabbatical opportunity.

Executive Session

An Executive session was not required

Epistle Talking Points

As published in the week following the meeting:

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

We've exceeded our summer renovations fundraising goal! The vestry celebrated the strong response to the Sacred Spaces fundraising effort. Giving exceeded our original goal and is continuing to come in! Vestry members expressed deep gratitude for our parish's generosity, which will provide a helpful buffer for the current work. The Finance Committee will recommend how to use the surplus, with early conversations pointing toward supporting Phase 3 planning.

Exciting things are taking shape at The Trees. Emily Yeatts shared an update from The Trees Development Committee, including ongoing work on grants, programming, organizational development, rentals, and care of the property. Vestry members also got a sneak peak at The Trees' new mission statement – stay tuned for more on that soon. In the meantime, all are invited to The Trees Open House on May 14: come experience what's growing at The Trees!

The vestry approved updates to the Midyette fund to better support formation ministry. The fund, which receives ongoing J2A curriculum licensing revenue, will now have a clear process for the Ryals Minister for Families to request funds for formation needs, while maintaining a \$5,000 reserve for ongoing licensing costs. This change is part of a broader review of how our endowment funds are working for the parish.

Could you be called to a leadership role? The vestry is looking for a stewardship committee chair and a delegate to diocesan convention. If you're interested, or just curious – talk with a vestry member.

Adjournment

Maryann ended the meeting with a closing prayer and the Vestry adjourned at 7:22 PM

Respectfully submitted,

David Kneeburg, Clerk of the Vestry