

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Minutes from the Vestry Retreat
February 5 & 6, 2026
Held at DaySpring, Parrish, FL

Thursday, February 5, 2026

The Vestry gathered at the Sabbath House at DaySpring at 3 p.m. They received their room assignments and keys and settled in. We then assembled in the meeting area downstairs at the Sabbath House for a social time, beginning the process of getting to know each other and of bonding into the Vestry body.

The business meeting was called to order at 4:40. In attendance: Fr. Joe Hudson, Megarie van Sickel, Paul Altimier, Joe Bentley, Libby Chinman, Barbara Davis, Carol Gargon, John Pearson, Pat McNickle, Rich Trautwein, Treasurer Lynne Altimier and Clerk Judy Jarvis. Present as guest: Fr. John Warfel.

Fr. Joe opened the meeting with a prayer.

- Megarie van Sickel called for a motion to approve a 3% raise and a bonus (last year's was \$300) for the staff. This is included in the 2026 budget which has been approved. Paul Altimier so moved. Pat McNickle seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Megarie called for a motion to allocate up to \$50,000 to install a concrete swale along the west side of our property to alleviate and prevent flooding due to overflow from the lake at Chestnut Creek from excessive amounts of rain and from the east side of the property to accommodate the runoff. The funding will also allow for waterproof sealing and painting, up to four feet high, of our existing building. Rich Trautwein so moved. Libby Chinman seconded. After some discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.
- Megarie called for a motion to adopt the policy of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida regarding the open carry of a firearm or bladed weapon as stated:
It is the policy of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida that on all our properties the open carrying of a firearm or bladed weapon shall be prohibited. This policy does not apply to licensed and/or certified law enforcement/security officers hired to provide security or otherwise conducting law enforcement activities on the property.
Carol Gargon so moved. Barbara Davis seconded. After some discussion the motion passed unanimously.
- Megarie called for a motion to approve allocating the following amounts for the purchase and installation of the following items:

Commercial Ice Maker	\$2,800
Commercial Mixer	\$1,800
Chest Freezer	\$2,375

Adding 25% for installation of the above equipment, plus a commercial steamer that has previously been purchased, the total amount would be \$10,594.
Pat McNickle so moved. Paul Altimier seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Fr. Joe explained the number of delegates and the substitute delegate needed for the Diocesan Convention as well as their responsibilities and commitments. He asked for volunteers to be delegates in October. Megarie van Sickel and Paul Altimier volunteered to be delegates; Lynne Altimier volunteered to be the alternate. Fr. Joe will be looking for a volunteer to be a delegate from the congregation.
- Lynne spoke about the Audit Committee informing the Vestry that Joe Bentley had been the leader for the past two years and that he has agreed to lead the Committee again this year. Fr. Joe mentioned that periodically the Audit is done externally with a CPA, otherwise all audits are internal. Lynne asked if the new members on the Vestry would agree to serve with Joe on the Committee. All three agreed.
- Judy Jarvis handed out a sheet showing the Vestry meeting dates for 2026. She also passed around sign-up sheets for volunteers for Pause for Prayers and Thanksgiving each month throughout the year and for volunteers for Church Lock-up through the month of March. She also handed out the January monthly reports and explained what happens to these reports after they are compiled.
- Fr. Joe brought up the topic of liaisons. He pointed out that Pat McNickel is already in position as liaison for Parish Care, that Megarie and Barbara are in position as leaders for Outreach, and that Libby is in position as leader for Christian Formation. He said that liaisons are needed for Hospitality and Welcome. Joe Bentley volunteered to be liaison for Hospitality and Rich Trautwein volunteered to be liaison for Welcome. A question was posed as to where the Christian Women's group should report, and it was decided that that report should go under Hospitality.

Megarie called for a motion to adjourn. Rich Trautwein so moved. Libby Chinman seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Friday, February 6, 2026

Following Morning Prayer in the Meeting House, Paul Altimier asked if we could hold a vote on an item that had just come to his attention by phone. Fr. Joe agreed that this was a necessary item and Megarie called a brief business meeting to order at 9:42.

Paul Altimier moved to approve up to \$3,500 to have our kitchen drain cleaned/jetted. The price includes camera scoping, cast iron pipe replacement, and camera verification that the drains are clear. Pat McNickle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Carol Gargon moved to adjourn the meeting; Paul Altimier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:44.

The remainder of the Retreat was focused on discussion of the Bishops's Four Pathways: forming disciples, developing leaders, embracing differences, and transforming communities which are an expression of Christ's ministry and which mirror our calling as God's people. After lunch the Retreat ended with a service in the Chapel.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Jarvis
Clerk of the Vestry

