GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

ATTENDANCE:

In-Person: Fr. Joseph Hudson, Megarie van Sickel, Paul Altimier, Libby Chinman, Barbara Davis, John Pearson, Rich Trautwein, Lynne Altimier, Judy Jarvis

By Zoon: Pat McNickle. **Absent:** Joe Bentley, Carol Gargon

Guests: Nancy Fees, Bob Sawyer

The meeting was called to order by Megarie van Sickel at 6:30 p.m.

Father Joseph opened the meeting with a prayer.

ACTION ITEMS/MOTIONS:

a. Megarie van Sickel called for a motion to approve the Clerk's minutes from the Vestry meeting of June 9, 2026. Paul Altimier so moved; Rich Trautwein seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

b. Megarie called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report for June 2026. Paul Altimier so moved, and Barbara Davis seconded the motion. There being no discussion, Megarie called the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Lynne Altimier briefly reviewed the July 2026 Treasurer's report. Megarie then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's reports for July 2026. Libby Chinman so moved; Paul Altimier seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

d. Nancy Fees brought forward the idea of financing a Caregiver Support Group in our parish. She said that several people had discussed the concept and felt that such a group would be beneficial since there is frequently a need for caregivers within our church community. Nancy pointed out that 67% of caregivers die before those they are caring for due to stress and neglect of self-care. This group would provide support for the members and be led by a licensed social worker. An amount of $1,500 is estimated to cover two sessions a month through the end of year; the final amount would be based on an hourly rate per participant. Megarie called for a motion to approve financial backing for a Caregiver Support Group in the amount of $1,500. Pat McNickle so moved; Paul Altimier seconded; the motion was approved unanimously.

e. Megarie called for a motion to approve Sandra Herrold as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention in October. Before the motion, Fr. Joseph reminded the Vestry of the process

of selecting delegates to the Convention. Paul Altimier moved to approve Sandra as a delegate; Rich Trautwein seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Pause for Prayers and Thanksgiving – Rich Trautwein

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. **Update on Buildings and Grounds - Paul Altimier**

Paul reported on the many building and grounds projects during the past two very busy months. These include maintenance on the A/C units and the central system, dishwasher problems that have been corrected, the mixer purchase for the kitchen, the sealing of the parking lot, the work on the retention pond, the waterproofing of the building, and the installation of the Florida flood door system and the storage of the flood doors, as well as the plan for putting them into use in case of a hurricane forecast.

b. **Update on the Capital Campaign - Bob Sawyer**

Bob reported that by the end of July there was a bit over $76,000 left in the Capital Campaign. He said that the question now is what to do with that money. Paul Altimier suggested keeping this remainder for the future, specifically because recurring building maintenance can be very costly. Bob stated that the decision on use of these funds would be up to the Vestry.

c. **Update on Audit - Lynne Altimier**

Lynne reported that the Audit Committee had finished and sent in the completed audit on July 31st. To date they have not heard anything back so they are assuming everything has gone well.

d. **Information of Merrill-Lynch CD - Bob Sawyer**

Bob stated that the Finance Committee decided that something needed to be done with the money that was left sitting in our checking account now that all restoration and renovation projects have been completed. Bank of America suggested a money market account which is insured by the U.S. government, and an account was set up in the amount $300,000. Also just under $640,000 was transferred to Merrill Lynch to create a ladder of 12 FDIC-insured CD's. The CD's will renew at staggering times, one per month throughout the year.

e. Update on Community dinners - Fr. Joseph

Fr. Joseph began by saying that Chef Paul has been very good at requesting repayment for his expenses and that there is money coming in through basket donations. He continued to say that at this point the money coming in has been sufficient to cover

expenses and that, while we could wish for a somewhat larger attendance, the program is meaningful for those who are attending.

f Information on Internet Dropbox - Nancy Fees

Nancy began by answering the question "What is a Dropbox?" She likened it to a huge file room on the internet with a folder for "Shared Vestry." With a link, vestry members can go in and view only the files in this folder. In order to submit reports to the folder, one needs a personal dropbox. Nancy presented the Vestry members with instruction sheets that explain how to create their own accounts and how to add files. She said that each person needs to do this themselves but she will help anyone who needs some assistance. She suggested using this for submitting monthly reports but also keeping the current method for a few months to see which option works best.

g. Updated parish by-laws - Fr Joseph & Bob Sawyer

Megarie handed out two copies of the by-laws, one showing the redactions and the other the final amended version. Fr. Joseph, Bob Sawyer, Megarie van Sickel, and Rich Trautwein met recently to review and to make any necessary revisions to up-date the by-laws. Fr. Joseph explained that any changes to the by-laws have to be approved by the Diocese through the person of an area chancellor. After doing the in-house revision, the amended by-laws were sent to Susan Park at St. Marks, our area chancellor, who approved the changes. Bob Sawyer then briefly went over some of the major changes with the Vestry and answered any requests for clarification. Megarie stated that a vote would be held in September on the amended by-laws after the Vestry has had time to look them over.

h. Changes in office staff - Fr. Joseph

Fr. Joseph reported that our bookkeeper, Amy Worcester has resigned due to a move further out of town that would make continuing not workable for her. Fr. Joseph reminded the Vestry that Ella Fast had been originally seriously considered for the bookkeeping position. She and Fr. Joseph got together with Bob Sawyer, Lynne Altimier, and Megarie van Sickel to work out ways that would make combining the two positions possible. Ella's CPA strongly pushed Ella to contract out for bookkeeping services with the church through her company Fast Luxe. This would avoid some of the problems presented by her working longer hours than at present on staff. At this time the decision is still under review.

i. Update on Outreach scholarships - Barbara Davis

Barbara Davis reported that the ninth of the ten scholarships of $1000 each was awarded this week and the last recipient to be considered will be interviewed this week as well. Barbara spoke about the range of students' choices in various vocational, technical, or professional studies and also explained the process of selection. She and Megarie both

emphasized that they are still looking for suggestions for four local community help centers for their mini-grant program.

j. Fr. Joseph's sabbatical - Fr. Joseph

Fr. Joseph immediately caught our attention by handing out beautiful reproductions of the cross of San Damiano and later seashells picked up from the beach in New Jersey before his Ignatian retreat there began. Both of these gifts had been carried with him, the first in the basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare and the second throughout his 35 days of silent retreat. Fr. Joseph also showed slides of Assisi and talked about the histories of the cross of San Damiano and of the ministry of St. Francis. These were followed by some slides from Rome and Naples among other places. Fr. Joseph also spoke about some of his work during this retreat involving the spiritual exercises that St. Ignatius had done for a month in the 1500's for himself. Fr. Joseph finished with a story of one of many spiritual occurrences that he experienced during his time of retreat.

Around the Table: Shout Outs, Questions, Comments, Reminders

Adjournment: Megarie van Sickel called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rich Trautwein so moved; Libby Chinman seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Closing: We prayed the Lord's Prayer in a circle.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Jarvis, Clerk of the Vestry