

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

In-Person: Fr. Joe Hudson, Bob Sawyer, Ruth Bruno, Libby Chinman, Barbara Davis, Pat McNickle, Ed Silva, Megarie van Sickel, Lynne Altimier, Judy Jarvis

Via Zoom: Paul Altimier, Christine Pizer

The meeting was called to order by Bob Sawyer at 6:28.

Father Joe opened the meeting with a moment of silence and a prayer.

ACTION ITEMS/MOTIONS:

- a. Ed Silva moved to approve the Clerk's Minutes from the February 13 and 14, 2025 Vestry Retreat meeting. The motion was seconded by Pat McNickle. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. After a brief review by Lynne Altimier, Pat McNickle moved to accept the Treasurer's Report for February, 2025. The motion was seconded by Megarie van Sickle. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Paul Altimier moved to approve an amount not to exceed \$1,800 to cover the purchase and installation of a permanent dolly for the piano. The motion was seconded by Barbara Davis. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. The Outreach co-chairs, Megarie van Sickle and Christine Pizer, moved that the combined net proceeds (proceeds after expenses) from the Pasta Dinner and the Saint Patrick's Day Dinner be donated to the Smart Homes program of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The motion was seconded by Ed Silva. The motion passed unanimously.

Pause for Prayers and Thanksgiving – Libby Chinman

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Delegates to the Diocesan Convention

Fr. Joe reported that the three delegates and one alternate to the Diocesan Convention have been chosen. Libby Chinman and Judy Jarvis will be the Vestry delegates, and

Ann Peck will be the non-Vestry delegate. Ed Silva has volunteered to be the alternate and fill in if needed. Fr. Joe also mentioned that these delegates are basically required to attend the September 4, 2025 convocation meeting at which time information will be presented, for example, on what to expect and on voting procedures

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

Bob began by referring to his chart and pointing out the amount of \$162,115 showing as the cash now available in the Capital Campaign Fund. He also reported that the Diocesan loan has been fully paid off. The Finance Committee wants to also pay back the loan to ourselves and put that money back into investments.. With the stock market being so high, the Finance Committee has been looking at ideas other than investing in the market. Currently the plan is to sit for a bit and look for the best possible investments and then bring those plans to the Vestry. Because of that the \$100,000 being shown under expense on the chart has not happened, and the total cash on hand is higher by that amount. Bob finished the update by saying that we continue to receive pledges on a regular basis.

c. **Sabbatical Update - Fr. Joe**

Fr. Joe stated that there is not much information to report at this time. Fr. Joe is looking at a couple of things, one possibility being a pilgrimage in 2026, but he is still working on details. Bob pointed out that a committee has been formed and will meet within the next 60 days to consider all ramifications of the sabbatical.

d. **Endowment Legacy Society**

Bob would like to start an Endowment Legacy Society, this being a group of people who have given to the Endowment Fund in the past. Bob sees budgeting for a yearly get-together event as a thank you and an encouragement to the members of the Society and to encourage others to consider getting involved.

e. **Banking concerns - Lynne Altimier**

Lynne reported on on-going problems and concerns with Wells Fargo. Some deposits have not been credited even when backed with a deposit slip; there have been other concerns as well. Rusty Shelley and Dave Beall went to the bank and spoke with the teller and the bank manager who could not give them any help. The Finance Committee wants to apprise the Vestry that they are considering moving to another bank. They are still trying to resolve the problems; however, the bank has been informed that a change is being considered.

f. **Bookkeeper position**

Rusty Shelley has turned in a letter of resignation. Fr. Joe sat down with her and they had a good conversation. She will continue with our church and with the Altar Guild. Fr. Joe has begun looking for another bookkeeper, ideally someone from outside of our church.

g. **Church growth in our area**

Fr. Joe reported on a gathering with other rectors at DaySpring recently and particularly on the growth of churches around our area. The data shows that the growth is mainly inland; however, we are seeing growth around us. Other interesting data shown was the average Sunday attendance in our diocese. Fr. Joe expects that after the Parochial Report is factored in, we may be in the top of our category. Data also shows that the average age of the people in the deaneries is declining; however, the Venice deanery is increasing in age. Other data shows steady, slow decline in the number of people active in churches each year. In addition, research shows Christianity has been declining but lately has been inclining.

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

Closing: Prayed the Lord's Prayer in a circle.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Jarvis, Clerk of the Vestry