

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

ATTENDANCE:

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

Zoom: Paul Altimier

Absent: Ed Silva

The meeting was called to order by Bob Sawyer at 6:33.

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

ACTION ITEMS/MOTIONS:

- a. Libby Chinman moved to approve the Clerk's Minutes from the November 11, 2025, Vestry meeting. The motion was seconded by Ruth Bruno. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Lynne Altimier gave a brief summary and an explanation of some items in the past month's Treasurer's report. Pat McNickle moved to accept the Treasurer's report for November 2025. The motion was seconded by Barbara Davis. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Bob Sawyer made a motion to set aside \$9,000 for Fr. Joe's sabbatical from this year's budget to go with the \$5000 set aside from last year's budget. Pat McNickle moved to amend the motion to increase the amount set aside for Fr. Joe's sabbatical to \$10,000. The motion was seconded by Paul Altimier. The motion to amend passed unanimously.

Bob Sawyer then moved to reserve \$10,000 from this year's surplus to be put into a restricted account to be used to pay for sabbatical expenses as they come in. The motion was seconded by Paul Altimier. The motion passed unanimously.

- d. Joe Bentley made a motion to support Jason Flack's ministry this year in the amount of \$2,500. The motion was seconded by Libby Chinman. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. Megarie van Sickel and Barbara Davis reported on a donor-directed donation of \$3,000 for El Hogar. On behalf of the Outreach team, Megarie moved to close out this restricted fund account and to support El Hogar in the amount of \$3,000. The motion was seconded by Barbara Davis. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. Bob Sawyer made a motion to put the expected approximate \$10,000 of the 2025 interest from the Endowment Fund into a restricted account for Outreach to use next year. Pat McNickle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PAUSE FOR PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVING - Bob Sawyer extemporized a prayer of thanksgiving and supplication and then opened the floor to the Vestry to contribute their own reasons for being thankful or to request prayers of supplication.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. **Rough draft budget - Bob Sawyer**

Bob discussed the changes in the amounts budgeted last year as compared with those planned for this year and the reasons for those differences. He said that the income from pledges is expected to be more this year, but that budgeted expenses are also higher. Bob pointed out that most expenses are “sunken” costs, costs that can’t be avoided, such as electricity, workman’s comp, maintenance, etc. Raises in these expenses are to be expected. As an example Bob mentioned an increase in Fr. John’s stipend because of an expected increase in duties during Fr. Joe’s sabbatical. Diocesan apportionment also increased, mainly because of Capital Campaign contributions. The Finance Committee will have a final budget approved by Jan. 3 and that budget will be brought to the Vestry on January 7.

b. **Rough draft budget for Fr. Joe’s Sabbatical - Bob Sawyer**

Bob stated that the purpose of this budget is to determine the amount the Church will pay of the expenses expected to be occurred by Fr. Joe during his sabbatical and is determined based on what Fr. Joe is planning to do on sabbatical. Bob will change the \$9,000 being set aside this year to \$10,000, and a rough draft budget will be approved by next year’s Vestry.

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

Bob reviewed his monthly report on the Capital Campaign.

d. **Update on Banking Changes - Lynne Altimier**

Lynne informed the Vestry that almost all direct-pay accounts paid from Wells Fargo have been moved to Bank of America. Financial statements are still looking good with over \$500,000 in the two operating cash accounts. At this point no bills are being paid out of Wells Fargo. Dave Beall went to Wells Fargo to ensure no more activity on that credit card. Lynne stated that they are close to the final details on making the switch to Bank of America. Lynne also spoke of the possibility of taking about \$200,000 and opening another short term CD depending on what Bank of America can offer.

e. **Update on Parish Administrator position - Fr. Joe**

Fr. Joe reported that our new Parish Administrator, Ella Fast, is very warm and friendly and knowledgeable and that she has settled in well.

f. **Update on Community Dinners - Fr. Joe**

Fr. Joe reported that the date for our first community dinner will be Wednesday, January 21. There are a lot of people signed up to volunteer. There is a scheduled meeting for volunteers on the first Wednesday in January. They are looking for a volunteer who is detail-oriented to handle scheduling. Nancy is putting together a postcard to go to local groups and organizations to acquaint them with this project. A final note made by Fr. Joe is that while someone is paying for the food, there remains a need to determine what expenses other than food will be left to be budgeted. Bob Sawyer said that an operating account will be set up to pay expenses as well as a

restricted account for money coming in. He is hopeful that donations coming in will meet the extra expenses.

g. Vestry candidates Update - Fr. Joe

Fr. Joe reported that he has two of the three Vestry positions filled and that he expects a yes from a third person. He has not received any interest from the announcements in the Sunday bulletins and E-blasts.

h. Structure of Ministry Teams - Fr. Joe

An e-mail went out to Vestry members during the past month reviewing the structure of the ministry teams. Fr. Joe pointed out that there will be ongoing changes in the roles the Vestry plays in ministries. In addition, Fr. Joe's view is that as new Vestry members are added, they may not be assigned to a particular commission except perhaps in a fiduciary function. The focus next year will be less on reporting back on an area of ministry and more on discussing the big picture particularly in the four pathways that the Bishop has established.

g. Fl. open carry law

A last minute addition: Bob Sawyer received a letter from the Bishop regarding the open carry law in Fl and setting out the policy of the Diocese. Bob will send the letter in an e-mail to the Vestry for their perusal. He plans to meet with the ushers to discuss this because they will be front line although he hopes that such an occurrence here would be very remote.

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

Closing: The Lord's Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:02

Respectfully submitted, Judith Jarvis, Clerk of the Vestry