

# **GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

## **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**

**Tuesday, November 11, 2025**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Absent:** Paul Altimier, Lynne Altimier

The meeting was called to order by Bob Sawyer at 6:30.

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

### **ACTION ITEMS/MOTIONS:**

- a. Megarie van Sickle moved for the Vestry to approve the Clerk's Minutes from the October 14, 2025, Vestry meeting. The motion was seconded by Pat McNickle. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Before calling for a motion on the Treasurer's Report for October, Bob Sawyer pointed out that finances were looking very good and that the Church should end the year with a positive variance. After answering a few questions from the floor, Bob also stated that Lynne will be presenting a draft budget next month. Joe Bentley moved for the Vestry to accept the Treasurer's Report for October, 2025. The motion was seconded by Ed Silva. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Bob Sawyer moved for the Vestry to approve the proposed change to the Good Shepherd Employment policy manual reducing the number of paid holidays as discussed at October's meeting. The motion was seconded by Ed Silva. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Megarie van Sickle moved for the Vestry to approve Fr. Joe's housing allowance for 2026 in the amount of \$50,000 to begin January 1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Ruth Bruno. The motion passed unanimously.

**Pause for Prayers and Thanksgiving – Pat McNickle**

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- a. **Capital Campaign update - Bob Sawyer**

Bob Sawyer stated that very little activity has been seen in the Capital Campaign account lately although some donations continue to come in. Later this month or early in December, Bob plans to gather together a group of those who have been involved in the revitalization of the property

after Ian. They will take a look at the money left and make recommendations to the Vestry later in the year as to what they feel to be the best use of those funds.

b. **Budget update - Bob Sawyer**

Bob is working on a budget in draft form to be presented to the Finance Committee at their next meeting. He feels that by that time the Committee will have a good idea of the pledges that will be coming in and of the direction those pledges will take us. He expects to have it in final form for Vestry review and approval early in January.

c. **Update on Fr. Joe's sabbatical - Fr. Joe and Bob Sawyer**

Fr. Joe reported that he has been approved for the thirty days of silence Ignatian retreat in New Jersey. He also reported the retreat cost to be \$3750, less than originally estimated. Bob Sawyer said that there will be a rough budget for the sabbatical presented next month for review and discussion. This presentation will be directed toward determining how much money we may put aside this year. The Vestry final vote on that budget will be early in January. He said that \$5,000 was put aside last year. If there is a surplus this year, whatever we choose to put aside now will minimize the impact on next year's budget. During the next year, we will review and approve a final budget for the sabbatical.

d. **Annual Fund Campaign update - Bob Sawyer**

Bob reported that they have completed all preparatory steps for Gratitude Sunday, November 16, the date for pledges to be turned in. He felt that it was a very good campaign, wonderfully done. Dave Beall will follow-up on missing pledges. Bob feels that we will have an idea next month about where we stand and that, while it won't be final, it will be close enough.

e. **Community dinners update - Fr. Joe**

We are moving forward on this. Fr. Joe recently had a lunch meeting with Fr. Michael from St. Mark's. Fr. Joe felt it was a good meeting with each getting to know the other better and that he senses they seem to be on the same path. As to the dinners themselves, there will not be any overlap with St. Mark's. They will do the second and fourth weeks on Wednesdays; we will do the first and third weeks. Chef Paul will be in charge of cooking for our dinners and the person who formerly paid for the food at St. Mark's will be donating for the food here at Good Shepherd. An initial sign-up sheet to investigate whether there would be enough volunteer participation on our end indicates that that will not be a problem.

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

Fr. Joe reported that the person they are interested in for the position had originally been out of the country and not available for interview at that time. She has been ill since returning, but she will be meeting with Fr. Joe and Nancy this Thursday (November 18) for an interview and to discuss the duties of the position. Fr. Joe feels she has a lot of strengths that would suit her for this position.

**g. Endowment Fund Update -Bob Sawyer**

Bob said that the Endowment Fund balance on our financial reports is not generally updated on a monthly basis because the monthly bank statements arrive too late. Bob just got the most recent update. The Fund balance now stands at \$332,713 through October, and the annual income is \$9,298 to date. Bob pointed out that this income can be applied to approved outreach programs or rolled over into the Fund balance. Last year \$5,000 was allocated for local trade school scholarships but was rolled over rather than taken out. The question then becomes do we take that \$5,000 out of this year's income. Further discussion will be held next month.

- h. In a final item of interest, Fr. Joe said that the Bishop recently brought up the issue of the recent open carry gun law decision in Florida and how the Diocese will want churches to address that. The Diocese will probably come up with a one-sentence statement and, along with that policy, some guidelines to address frequently asked questions.

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

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

**Meeting adjourned at 8:05**

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Jarvis, Clerk of the Vestry