

MINUTES

GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Retreat

February 13 & 14, 2025

Held at DaySpring, Parrish, FL

Thursday, February 13, 2025

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 for a social time, beginning the process of getting to know each other and of bonding into the Vestry body.

At about 4:45 p.m. there was a short business meeting. In attendance: Fr. Joe, Bob Sawyer, Ruth Bruno, Libby Chinman, Barbara Davis, Pat McNickle, Christine Pizer, Ed Silva, Megarie van Sickel, Lynne Altimier, and Judy Jarvis. Attending by Zoom: Paul Altimier.

- Bob Sawyer asked the Vestry to confirm the electronic vote on 1/14/2025 approving a motion 7-2 to replace the water pump, control box and two sections of pipe servicing the Memorial Garden fountains and overall landscaping. The Vestry confirmed the vote unanimously.
- Bob also asked the Vestry to confirm the electronic vote on 2/2/2025 approving unanimously the purchase of a used Kawai grand piano in the amount of \$5,500.00 plus \$500 for moving and tuning costs. The Vestry confirmed the vote unanimously.
- Bob Sawyer moved to pay off the balance of the Diocesan loan in the amount remaining of \$111,046. Paul Altimier seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Bob Sawyer moved to take \$100,000 from Fund 2 (Capital Campaign fund) and put that amount back into the Excess Cash Investment account. Pat McNickle seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Megarie van Sickel moved to approve the Clerk's minutes from the Annual Meeting and Vestry Meeting of 1/26/2025. Pat McNickle seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Pat McNickle moved to accept the Treasurer's report for January 2025. Ruth Bruno seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Lynne Altimier presented information from the Audit Committee on the annual audit requested by the Diocese of Southwest Florida and due by September 1. Lynne wants to get a head start on it this year. She pointed out that the audit is done to find opportunities for improvement and that it is a learning opportunity for the leadership of the church. It has been suggested by the Diocese that some vestry members be included in the Committee. Lynne wants to include the new vestry members every year going forward. Joe Bentley served on the Committee last year and will be the lead this year. Both Barbara Davis and Pat McNickle have agreed to serve as well. Lynne feels that there might also be a back-up

person, perhaps someone from the 8 a.m. service. She is planning to set up a meeting in March to get the Committee together. The Committee will then take over from there.

- Bob Sawyer gave a clear explanation of the Purchase Authority rules and on the various limits that need signature approval.
- Discussion was held about the Diocesan Convention in October and the make-up of the delegates. Two need to be from the Vestry and one from the church at large and one alternate. A final decision was not made. Judy Jarvis and Libby Chinman will go in some capacity, Paul Altimier will be asked also, and Fr. Joe will find a volunteer from outside of Vestry.

The meeting was recessed at 5:35 for dinner and resumed at 6:50.

- Megarie van Sickel recounted how Dave Beall, representing the Endowment Committee, reported to her that the Committee had voted to donate half of the accrued interest from the Endowment Fund in the amount of \$5,000 to the Outreach Committee for a special project to be approved by the Vestry. After some thought and research, she and Christine Pizer proposed that five \$1,000 scholarships be given to young adults in the South Sarasota area who are going to technical school in order to help them gain a trade to better their futures. They presented their idea to Dave and to Fr. Joe, who both approved. Then they looked for a agency in the area to implement this idea. Megarie found Career Source, which has been active quite awhile in Florida and has an agency in the Sarasota area. Career Source would do the vetting and choosing the candidates; we would provide the scholarships and have a say in choosing the final candidates if we so chose. She envisions writing the check to the school or to Career Source rather than directly to the student.
- After more discussion, Megarie read a motion that stated “It is moved by the Outreach Co-Chairs to approve the amount of \$5,000, as designated by the Endowment Committee, to a scholarship program focused on technical/trade training. The purpose being to assist vetted, qualified students ages 18 and up, to enter the workforce as well-trained employees. Thus, leading them to better their and their families’ economic situation and to become productive members of the community.” After further discussion about the availability of funds, Bob Sawyer moved to amend the motion to include the understanding that the funds will come from the Operations budget in advance of receiving the \$5,000 of the 2025 Endowment Fund interest. The motion was seconded by Ed Silva. The motion was passed unanimously.
- Fr. Joe and Bob clarified the difference between a commission chair and a team liaison. There was considerable discussion with many examples given. Fr. Joe said that this change is still very much in transition. There was further discussion on problems in scheduling for ushers, greeters, readers, and acolytes as well as some problems that were encountered with the Newcomer’s Reception.

Megarie moved to adjourn at 7:30. Libby seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Following a brief break, the group spent some time getting to know each other better as each one told “Two truths and a lie.” The evening ended with the Lexio Devina.

Friday, February 14

We vacated the Retreat House and following breakfast moved over to the New Meeting House. Fr. Joe began with Morning Prayer, which was followed by work and discussion based on the workbook "Growing a Rule of Life." It focused on guided introspection to writing a rule of life to guide us on our way to spiritual growth and a more meaningful relationship with God. One focus was on our individual relationships with God and possible ways to cultivate growth. A second focused on our relationship with self and how we can grow and change in self-love and nearness to God. The third area examined was our relationship with others and on how we can protect and nurture love in that relationship. The final area we looked at was our relationship with creation and on ways to live in rhythm with nature and on ways to strengthen our connection with the natural world.

The retreat ended after lunch at the chapel with a Eucharistic service.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Jarvis
Clerk of the Vestry