

# **GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

## **Minutes of the Vestry Meeting**

**Tuesday, September 9, 2025**

### **ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Zoom:** Bob Sawyer, Paul Altimier, Ed Silva

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Joe at 6:32.

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 June 17, 2025 Vestry meeting. The motion was seconded by Megarie van Sickel. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Pat McNickle moved to accept the Treasurer's Reports for June, July, and August, 2025. The motion was seconded by Ruth Bruno. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Bob Sawyer moved to accept the resignation of Christine Pizer from the Vestry. The motion was seconded by Ed Silva. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Bob Sawyer moved to approve Joe Bentley as the new ninth Vestry member. The motion was seconded by Paul Altimier. The motion passed unanimously.
- e. The Vestry voted unanimously to confirm the e-vote of July 9, 2025 approving unanimously to spend, from the capital campaign fund, an amount not to exceed \$5,600 for new clergy vestments.
- f. The Vestry voted unanimously to confirm the e-vote of July 14, 2025 approving unanimously an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for replenishing the stone in the parking lot.
- g. Joe Bentley moved to approve the funding for emergency removal of two Slash Pines by the cross near the road at a cost of \$2,100 plus \$400 for debris removal. The motion was seconded by Megarie van Sickel. The motion passed unanimously.
- h. Megarie van Sickel and Barbara Davis, Outreach co-chairs, moved to allocate the sum of \$2,000 for four mini-grants of \$500 each to each of four local organizations. These organizations are Venice Meals on Wheels, The Haven, 180 House, and On the Spot: A Street Medicine Outreach. The motion was seconded by Libby Chinman. The motion passed unanimously.
- i. Megarie van Sickel and Barbara Davis, on behalf of the Outreach team, moved to support the ongoing production of "The Chosen" by a donation of \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Pat McNickle. The motion passed unanimously.

**PAUSE FOR PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVING** - Barbara Davis

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **a. Capital Campaign Update - Bob Sawyer**

Bob Sawyer reviewed his Capital Campaign report for August. Bob reported that we received funds in each of the three summer months and spent some money as well. Bob stated that there is \$166,905 in the Capital Campaign as of now.

### **b. Update on Fr. Joe's Sabbatical - Fr. Joe & Bob Sawyer**

Fr. Joe said that next year he will be taking a three-month Sabbatical to begin seven days after Easter, April 5, 2026. He will begin by taking five days to unwind after Holy Week and Easter. He described the first segment of the Sabbatical: a ten-day Assisi pilgrimage in Italy directed by Shalem, a well-known institute for spiritual formation. Following that, two other segments are planned. First, ten days on a personal contemplative pilgrimage (as opposed to a guided tourist trip) in Rome and Florence to various holy sites. This would be followed by ten days of vacation with family. The last component is an Ignatian thirty-day silent retreat for which Fr. Joe has applied. He said that he is hoping to take some of this time to discern the journey ahead over the next five to ten years of ministry prior to, and then into retirement. He and the Sabbatical Committee are still working on details. Bob Sawyer stated that the cost will be covered by Fr. Joe and by the church and that, when the final cost to the church has been worked out by the Sabbatical Committee, it will be presented to the Vestry for approval.

### **c. Wrap up on the Annual Audit - Lynne Altimier**

Lynne Altimier strongly praised the Audit Committee. She stated that the Committee not only beat the deadline of September 1, but submitted the report on July 9. She did point out that the Audit Committee suggested that the Endowment Committee didn't seem to have much oversight in regards to the audit. More communication between the committees was suggested.

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

Almost all of the automatic payments have been moved over to Bank of America from Wells Fargo. At this time all deposits are going to Bank Of America. All of the checks are still being written out of Wells Fargo because there are still a lot of blank checks available and there is a substantial balance at Wells Fargo that will continue to be used up until such time as it seems prudent to finally switch the balance over to Bank of America. Lynne expects that to be by the end of the year.

### **e. Two-day workshop - Fr. Joe**

Fr. Joe gave some background on the proposed workshop to be conducted by his twin brother, Jim, and his wife, Karen, and on their background as well. The workshop is being planned for the end of November, sometime before Advent which begins on the last Sunday of November. Fr. Joe sees the main focus of the workshop to be "Who is Jesus Christ?" He is also planning to open the workshop to the Dioceses. Fr. Joe finished by saying that he wanted to let the Vestry to know what is in the works and also that he feels some remuneration would be appropriate. He said that would be discussed at a later time when things are more solidified.

f. **Consolidation of Restricted Net Asset accounts - Bob Sawyer**

Bob referred to the Summary of Restricted Net Assets YTD in the financial report. He explained why a difference existed between Realm's Capital Campaign account and his monthly summary.. Basically money that had been used from the insurance proceeds for revisioning items before the Capital Campaign funds began to arrive had not been moved over to capital campaign funds. He corrected the difference by moving those funds into the insurance account. For the sake of simplicity of understanding in the future, he then consolidated the remaining funds from the insurance and FEMA accounts into the Building and Grounds restricted account for future needs.. He added that there currently is \$166,905 in the capital campaign fund and that a committee will be formed soon to decide on use of those funds.

g. **5-yr fire inspection, sidewalk repair and parking lot improvements - Fr. Joe & Bob Sawyer**

Bob read the grounds report from Bob Clark. Bob Clark reported that the work on the parking lot stop blocks had been completed and gravel added to the parking lot. There are some areas that need additional gravel, but Bob believes that it can be ordered later and spread on our own. In addition, Bob has scheduled replacement of broken walkway slabs for early September. Bob wrote that one other major improvement that is recommended is to repair/cover some of the existing asphalt drive where asphalt has holes and is crumbling, to complete asphaltting the portion of the drive that is still gravel, and to reseal the entire lot and re-stripe existing parking stripes. This work would be done in two segments by Advanced Asphalt at a total cost of \$14,735. He believes that Capital Committee review and Vestry approval will be needed. Ed Silva asked whether the parking lot could be expanded. Bob Sawyer responded that we are severely limited as to what ground can be covered because of the need to allow drainage. The final item in this section was the 5-year fire inspection. Bob Sawyer stated that was not covered in Bob Clark's report but that it will be forth coming.

h. **Community dinners - Fr. Joe**

Shortly after Paul Skulitz, the former chef at St. Mark's, began coming to Good Shepherd, he approached Fr. Joe about the possibility of holding community dinners here. He said that the individual who largely funded the dinners at St. Marks is interested in funding dinners here also. Fr. Joe discussed some plusses and concerns he has had and said that he has been exploring possibilities. He feels that the next steps are to discuss the idea with key individuals here in the church to explore and evaluate the possibility of putting this idea into practice. More information was provided by Ruth Bruno and Joe Bentley who had been involved with the dinners at St. Marks. Fr. Joe restated that we are still in the early stages of making decisions on this but that at this point he felt it necessary to bring the Vestry in on the idea.

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