

Vestry Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, February 24, 2026
Time: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Location: Conference Room of St. Luke's

- I. Call to order and Quorum, Approval of New Agenda Fr. Marc
 - A. **Attendees:** Fr. Marc, Senior Warden Dave White, Junior Warden, Rich Leon, Bookkeeper Cheryl Erpelding, Treasurer Dave Malmquist, Vaughna Henry, Brenda Schwartz, Lauree Birchmeier, Gary Nick, Leigh Hunt, Leanne Bryan, Betty Doherty.
 - B. **Absent:** Eileen Griffin, Steven Dear

- II. **Spiritual Centering** Fr. Marc

Adaptive Challenges

- III. Fr. Marc began the discussion with a reading and discussion of how does a Vestry govern faithfully.
 - A. What is the Vestry's specific role in identifying and nurturing appropriate ministries within the congregation as well as limiting or failing to endorse others. How can we encourage participation (funding, knowing needs, community). Why would the Vestry limit roles or ministries. Examples were discussed regarding the Vestry's role in curtailing things that may be unrealistic.

Consent Agenda

- A. Fr. Marc pointed out that commission members should have their reports in a week before the Vestry meeting if possible.
- B. Fr. Marc explained what the Consent Agenda is for those new to the Vestry and why it was helpful in streamlining the meetings.
- C. The Consent Agenda including the minutes from the January 27th meeting was passed unanimously (**Action Item**)
- D. Lynda Rowntree was nominated as clerk by Leanne Bryan. It was seconded by Gary Nick and passed unanimously (**Action Item**) Dave

Malmquist was nominated as Treasurer by Dave White and seconded by Leanne Bryan. It passed unanimously (**Action Item**)

Opening Prayer offered by

Fr. Marc

Technical Challenges

IV. Old Business

- A. Cheryl Erpelding explained the Profit and Loss statement. She also explained that learning the finance officer position has been ongoing and asked if anyone knew of other places to receive help. Fr. Marc explained that the Vanguard account was up for now and they were still working with the Diocese to recover the overpayment that was made in 2024. He warned that while our finances look good now, they do go down during the summer months and it is important to prepare for that.
- B. The Music Ministry plans were discussed, and it was pointed out that we don't expect any person(s) hired for the position to start until the beginning of summer.
- C. Capital Campaign Task Force is on hold until after Easter when people can submit things that need to be accomplished
- D. The prospective labyrinth was discussed. The property that was originally supposed to house the labyrinth has been sold. There needs to be research into who purchased it.
- E. Dave White pointed out that the new computers have been installed in the office.

V. New Business

- A. Commission Liaisons were appointed
 - Membership – Lauree Birchmeier
 - Fellowship – Gary Nick
 - Outreach – Betty Doherty
 - Christian Education – Steven Dear
 - Worship – Leigh Hunt
 - Pastoral Care – Brenda Schwartz
 - Justice (to include Creation Care and Heritage) Leanne Bryan

Stewardship – Eileen Griffin
Communications – Vaughna Henry
(Action Item)

- B. The Parochial Report was looked at and discussed. A correction was made to the number of clergy (#17). The question of on-line presence was brought up. It was decided that even though we cannot accurately list the numbers of people who watch, we still need that presence. Leanne Bryan moved to accept the report with the correction, and it was seconded by Leigh Hunt. It passed unanimously **(Action Item)**
- C. Due to the increasing costs of Columbarium items specifically the bronze plaques and urns, it was suggested that the fees increase. After some discussion on the amount of the increase, it was decided that this would be revisited every year. Brenda Schwartz moved to accept the increase retroactive to January 2026, and it was second by Dave White. It passed unanimously. **(Action Item)**

VI. **Announcements**

- A. Chapel icon blessing – March 8
- B. Fr. Marc personal retreat – March 17-March 23
- C. Discipleship Days at St. Luke’s April 25, 9-3
- D. Vestry Retreat at the Casa Scottsdale June 5-6
- E. Newcomer Luncheon March 15th.

VII. **Closing Prayer** offered by

Lauree Birchmeier