

# **Vestry Minutes – St. John’s Church**

**Meeting Date:** November 16, 2025

**Location:** Parish Library, following the 10:00 a.m. service

Attended: Mary Davis, MB Witt, Worth Bracken, Geoff Hanneman, Laura Daly, Michael Del Nin, Sara Coles, Susan McFeely, Rebecca Bent

Absent: Andris Kalnins, Veronique Dulack, Robert Reynolds

- The Rector opened the meeting with a prayer.
- Vestry approved the October minutes as submitted by David Gillespie.
- We will approve the August 24th Minutes at the next meeting on December 23rd.

## **Finance**

- David will convene the Finance Committee to begin work on current and upcoming financial needs.
- Vestry will begin discussions in January about long-range financial planning for 2026 and beyond.
- Wardens will explore whether a second Finance Committee is needed to support long-term planning.
- Joan will send a December reminder letter informing parishioners of their 2025 pledge status.
- Mary Davis has sent out the initial Stewardship Letter requesting 2026 pledges.

## **Property**

- Susan will oversee installation and use of the newly ordered cameras to identify the persistent leak in the church window well (estimated cost: \$1,200–\$1,300).
- Vestry will schedule a future meeting to discuss establishing rental taxes/fees for outside groups using parish space.
- Property work for the year is otherwise complete.

## **Fête**

- MB and Susan coordinated with Charles Devoe for event setup; Charles has confirmed full availability.
- We should encourage people to sign up to assist on each day of the Fete.
- MB and Susan have been actively getting the word out about the Fete.

## **Renovation**

- Worth reports that the stonework at the buttresses is finished.
- Scaffolding will be removed before Thanksgiving.
- Renovation of the portal will proceed in February, pending fundraising outcomes.
- Worth will attend a Thursday meeting to review the full scope of church renovation needs and next steps.

## **Vestry Retreat Follow-Up**

- Mary Davis shared notes from the retreat and highlighted priorities for parish engagement.
- Vestry will identify strategies to increase parish participation and strengthen community outreach.
- Vestry will document potential church-merger models for review.

- Vestry will determine what financial structures must be authorized within five years to support sustainable ministry.
- Vestry will develop a plan in early 2026 to address the retreat's three major project areas.
- Wardens will ensure follow-up on each retreat topic, with accountability check-ins.

### **Rector's Report**

- Rector and Wardens will redesign and organize the Annual Meeting scheduled for February 1.
- Parish leadership will publish:
  - 2025 financial statements
  - 2026 annual budget
  - Voter eligibility list
  - Slate of nominations
- Vestry approved establishing a Nominating Committee.

### **Regional and Worship Events**

- Vestry members will participate in the NW Region Fall Gathering.
- Parish will prepare for Lessons and Carols.
- Leadership will initiate and maintain conversations with neighboring parishes about collaboration and shared ministry.

### **Concerns & Ongoing Needs**

- Vestry will continue identifying ways to present the parish as open, welcoming, and community-oriented.
- Outreach ideas, including "Messy Church," will be evaluated as potential models for growth.
- Vestry will maintain open communication with parishioners as long-term planning unfolds.