

Church of the Holy Comforter, Vienna, Virginia

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

March 12, 2026

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with a prayer led by Jon Strand.

Kim welcomed the group. Brady O'Beirne shared a spiritual reflection on living in the present, from Og Mandino's book The Greatest Salesman in the World.

Clergy Report:

Jon shared that 70 attended the Second Saturday All Parish Chili Cookoff on February 21, and about 100 attended the iftar dinner with the American Turkish Friendship Association on February 20. The youth group's casino night and dance fundraiser took place on February 28. A student-led service will be held next weekend, March 15. The hypothermia shelter took place last week, and the attendance was at capacity with a record of 56 guests on one of the nights.

Melissa continues her recovery from surgery.

Warden's Report:

The wardens have formed a working group to create a Rule of Life for the church. There are eight members in addition to Jon, Kim, Gini, and Kate.

A group is meeting to study how to be the best stewards of the ERC (Employee Retention Credit) and IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) funds.

Two new Diocesan delegates are sought for the North Fairfax region to attend quarterly meetings and the annual convention; these delegates will be approved by the vestry at the April meeting.

New preschool board bylaws are being drafted. The vestry will vote on approving the new bylaws once they are completed.

The cross exhibit will be open to the public on the weekends of March 21, March 28, and Holy Saturday; help is needed to monitor the exhibit, and a sign-up sheet was passed around.

Those vestry members who have not yet completed the required church misconduct prevention training are urged to do so.

Vestry Person of the Month, VPOM:

Laurie sent four condolence cards and a congratulatory card for a baptism. March VPOM is Bob Dorch with Art Kron as a backup.

Administrative tasks:

Financial report:

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the treasurer's February report.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the February minutes.

Parochial Report:

Attendance continued to increase in February over the previous two years. After the Sunday service, all available rooms at church are booked and used by various groups such as Forum, Bible Study, Sunday School, and the ECW board meeting.

Building and Grounds:

Copies of the prioritized project list were provided for the Vestry. There are three buckets of funding available for building and grounds: the approved budget amount, the Capital Replacement Fund, and the Building Fund. The Capital Replacement Fund is supplemented annually through allocations from the operating budget.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to move funds from the Building Fund to the Capital Replacement Fund to fund boiler replacement and flue repair, to occur in the July/August timeframe.

This project will wait two weeks to begin, in order to allow time to explore the possibility of using geothermal energy instead.

Gratitude was expressed for Pete Eareckson's expertise and nearly full-time support of HVAC projects.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to provide funds from the Capital Replacement Fund to reconfigure the chapel HVAC and remove the old unsightly unit. This will also address the lack of HVAC in the chapel sacristy.

Committee Reports:

Communications:

Laurie referred to her submitted report.

Pennywise, ECW, and Coffee Hour:

Coffee hours have been staffed through March, and April is staffed except for April 12.

Fellowship:

The next Second Saturday service will feature the newly formed Songbird Choir from the Preschool Kindergarten.

Finance:

Art referred to his submitted report.

Newcomers:

At the May quarterly Vestry Town Hall, the meaningful engagement survey will be reinitiated.

Outreach:

The grants committee met to assign ministries to be spotlighted in each month of the coming year.

March 14 will be the annual Samaritan Ministries breakfast at the National Press Club in DC, with Bishop Mariann Budde as the speaker. A carpool will form from Holy Comforter.

The committee will contact David Grove to request that an email address be set up for them.

David pointed out that, in determining how to communicate with parishioners, the Comfortable Word reaches over 2500 parishioners weekly, in contrast to the 250 bulletins printed each Sunday

Stewardship:

Brady reported that \$1.2 million in pledges have been made by parishioners, very close to the stewardship campaign goal of \$1.25 million. So far, 221 pledges have been made, compared to the goal of 230. The pledge cards have been removed from the pews and will return in the fall, signaling to parishioners the cycle of stewardship. Pledges are welcome at any time for 2026. The Vestry thanked Brady for his strong presence each Sunday during this year's season.

Adult Faith Formation:

Gini noted that a forum is needed for April 26, the weekend of the women's retreat.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Stager, Register