

Church of the Holy Comforter, Vienna, Virginia

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting

April 9, 2026

The meeting opened at 7:06 p.m. with a prayer led by Jon Strand.

Kim welcomed the group. Kate Nider shared a spiritual reflection on listening to “Allelulia” by Randall Thompson performed by Octarium.

Clergy Report:

Melissa hopes to gradually return to work beginning around April 16; her surgery was on February 16.

The Songbird Choir of preschoolers debuted at the Second Saturday service in March.

On March 15, Jon marked eight years at Holy Comforter.

Rev. Matt Streett will be with us until approximately the end of July, when he will be deployed to Korea.

Warden’s Report:

Two working groups have been actively meeting: the group to create a Rule of Life for the church, and the group addressing our intentional stewardship of the ERC (Employee Retention Credit) and IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) funds.

The May vestry meeting will occur on the first Thursday, May 7, rather than the usual second Thursday.

The second quarter town hall will be held on Sunday, May 17. There will be an update regarding the Rule of Life project, and the Outreach committee will speak.

Susan will not be at the June meeting; besides the AI summary that is provided, a volunteer was sought to record the minutes.

Vestry Person of the Month, VPOM:

Bob sent two condolence cards and hosted coffee hours as needed, where hosts were unavailable. April VPOM is Art Kron, with Shelly Malone as backup.

Administrative tasks:

Financial report:

Utility costs have been higher due to a very cold winter. Our solar credits accrue, as a commercial customer, from March through February, and reset to zero each March.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the treasurer’s March report.

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

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to confirm Joni Langevoort and Brian Welch as our two new diocesan delegates.

Parochial Report:

All parking spaces were occupied for the Easter services. Additional seating was filled in the narthex and chapel

Building and Grounds:

Brian Land was welcomed as a guest. He discussed the past year's work regarding research and proposals to replace the stairs to the office at the Door 2 entrance, connecting the upper parking lot with the lower. Eight requests for a proposal were sent out, and three companies submitted proposals. He presented the preferred proposal from Wheat's Landscaping to replace the stairs, handrail, lighting, and basic landscaping. A donation was received to provide native plants to landscape the area. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to approve funds to replace the stairs per the proposal.

Committee Reports:

Pennywise, ECW, and Coffee Hour:

Prospective coffee hour hosts have been asking how to view the video showing how to host coffee hour. The video will be posted on our YouTube channel, so a link will be available.

Coffee hours were staffed, but several hosts have cancelled their attendance. The Vestry Person of the Month has been stepping in, along with Shelly Malone, to fill absences.

Shelly will donate a hot water boiler for tea, as it is missing from the kitchen.

Fellowship:

The parish picnic will take place Memorial Day Weekend on Sunday, May 31.

Finance:

Art reported that the audit is taking place and the vestry will approve the audit.

Newcomers:

We have about six newcomers who have been coming regularly this year. In May the Meaningful Engagement survey will be offered again.

Outreach:

Jane referred to her submitted report.

Stewardship:

Brady reported that a bit more than \$1.23 million in pledges have been received, out of a budgeted \$1.25 million. Many phone numbers in the Realm app directory are incorrect or

out of service. It was suggested to have a password protected link to the Realm directory on our website. Constant Contact contains the email addresses for 2500 recipients of the Comfortable Word weekly newsletter.

Regarding the order in which articles are published in the bulletin and newsletter, David advised balancing announcements from groups fairly, despite requests for preferential placement.

Communications:

Laurie referred to her upcoming report.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Stager, Register