

Minutes – Vestry Meeting 5/20/25

Present: Fr. Eric Mills, Al Snell, Senior Warden, Paul Palmer, Craig Allan, Marygrace Barber, Ross Lively, Tracy Baltz, Bill Happer, Ellen Burnett, Rick Pearce

Absent: John Kennedy, Paul Bailey, Donna Foster

Ex officio: Deacon Pam Hayes, Vestry Chaplain, Lorraine Beamer, clerk

- Fr. Eric opened the meeting with a prayer.
- Reflection: Deacon Pam introduced Psalm 133:1 – “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” Unity among believers is not just desirable – it is a gift from God. When we come together in love and fellowship, we reflect His divine nature and experience His blessings.

Discussion followed. The theme was to “Listen with empathy and extend grace to seek unity”.

- Rector’s Time – Fr. Eric

Fr. Eric thanked Ellen Burnett and Paul Palmer for meeting with the former treasurers (Chris Barber, Bob Fuchs) to get feedback. Fr. Eric had previously met with both Chris and Bob. Rick Pearce is the new interim treasurer appointed at the last meeting.

There will be changes occurring with bookkeeping and changes to staff responsibilities after the audit report is completed and reviewed. We need to plan for the interim rector, the new permanent rector and the vestry strategies – looking forward, not backward. Fr. Eric’s time with us is coming to a close, so no major decisions will be made (ie: Columbarium). Fr. Eric will take a step back but will not be absent. Fr. Eric has delegated the authority to chair Vestry meetings to Al Snell (Senior Warden). Vestry meetings will be adhering to Robert’s Rules more strictly with Paul Bailey as Parliamentarian to keep the meetings on track. Paul will give a walk through/review of Robert’s Rules at the next meeting.

Al intends to maintain a collegial cooperative style following the agenda. All voices will be heard.

- Consent Items – Outreach Resolution, Financial Signatures

The Vestry Executive Council (VEC) in conjunction with the Finance and Facilities Board sent the following resolution to the Diocese and Vanguard.

The St. Philip’s Episcopal Church Vestry hereby appoints signature authority and access to the St. Philip’s Episcopal Church Vanguard and the Diocese of East Carolina Foundation accounts to the following three individuals:

Treasurer Richard Pearce, Staff Bookkeeper Karla Platt, Investment Committee Margaret Bearden. This authorization supersedes all previous authorizations.”

Three resolutions concerning Outreach Endowments were proposed by Finance and Facilities.

Resolution #1: The Outreach Endowment Fund will be managed by the foundation of the Diocese of Eastern Carolina in compliance with their investment policies. Annually, the Investment Committee will recommend a distribution of no greater than 5% of the previous twelve (12) quarter rolling average of the value of the Fund. The percentage will be ratified by the Finance & Facilities Board of St. Philips. This amount, net of administrative fees, will be transferred to the Outreach Temporary Restricted Fund on a quarterly basis.

Resolution #2: As designated under the original terms of donation by the Fairley family, the initial Outreach Endowment shall not be invaded for any purpose. The distributions shall be spent for the

purposes of outreach or human needs only. The Outreach Board shall expend, on an annual basis, all receipts from the Fund.

Resolution #3: There will no longer be a vestry-appointed representative for the Outreach Endowment Fund on the Outreach Board. This change is in alignment with how the other St. Philips endowments operate.

These resolutions were passed by the F&F Board and put forth as a motion to the Vestry. Rick Pearce seconded the motions which passed unanimously.

- **Parish Finance Discussion – Rick Pearce**

The audit results are not back yet, but expected soon. One item was addressed by the auditor in relation to the handling of monies after the services.

2 people must always be involved in the money handling. They will sign the sealed deposit envelope to be picked up by the counters from the safe in the sacristy. This will also apply to the Summer Service and monies from the office collected during the week.

Other details pertaining to the audit will be discussed at a later date.

The “Statement of Financial Position” was distributed. Rick explained that Realm has many reports that can be generated for F&F and Vestry meetings. A variety of reports will be presented at the next meeting so that the Vestry can determine which format best suits their needs.

Discussion followed.

- **Strategy Teams overview – Al Snell**

Strategy teams are reminded to submit their updates to Lorraine Beamer before Vestry meetings to be copied and distributed. A narrative for the website should also be submitted.

Strategy 1 – Whole Person Ministry

There were 4 phone calls received on the Care Line last month. The strategy is preparing refrigerator magnets, business cards and posters to promote the parish's use of the Care Line. Pastoral Care will do the Ministry in Focus next week to further explain the Care line.

The Wellness Ministry Team is up and running, so the strategy team can determine the next strategy to work on.

Strategy 2 – Structure for Change

Plan I is moving forward with the work of the IT team.

Plan II – Rick and Tom Propst are evaluating the Stewardship timeline.

Plan III is tracking along well with their plans.

Strategy 3 – Grow the Church

Plan 2 – a new Facebook manager is needed; merchandise is going well; an Electronic billboard is planned for Long Beach Road in June and September advertising St. Philip's. Discussion followed including issues with Realm.

- Fr. Eric warned the Vestry (and lawn care teams) about the alligator found on the Portico
- Discussion about how to change VPOD dates also occurred.

- Transition Update – Al Snell

The Diocese will assign St. Philip's an interim priest. They have asked for feedback about concerning the life, demographic, structure and personality of our church which has been provided. This information can be used as basic groundwork for the Parish Profile when we begin our search for a permanent rector. This update is intended to keep the parish apprised of the progress of our process.

Al Snell moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Rick Pearce.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine Beamer, clerk