

Vestry Meeting June 8, 2025

Attendees: Charlie Merwin and Cheryl Masterman (on Zoom); John Black, Jim Jordan, David Woods, Danielle Trucksess, Hope Knight, Tiffany O'Neill, Joe Spadaro, Rev. Peter Vanderveen, Rev. Jo Ann Jones, Rev. Jeremy O'Neill, and Joshua Castano (in person)

Absent: Win Shafer, Lisa Raymond and Daniel Wesley

Meeting commenced at 11:40am in the Parish House Conference Room

Opening Prayer: Rev. Jo Ann Jones

Approval of Minutes and Consent Agenda

Rev. Peter Vanderveen introduced the consent agenda that included the May 20th, 2025 meeting minutes. There were two amendments to be made to the minutes; a motion was made and seconded to pass the minutes as amended. Rev. Peter asked if there were any changes that needed to be made regarding the June committee reports and no one had any changes; a motion was made and seconded to pass the consent agenda.

New Business

Stepping down of the Accounting Warden and interim Accounting Warden

Rev. Peter Vanderveen mentioned a letter from Daniel Wesley indicating his intention to step down from the Accounting Warden role at the beginning of July, 2025, due to work and life commitments. Rev. Peter explained the challenges Daniel faced, including the departure of Besty Wolford and Fran Merritt. The vestry members expressed their appreciation for Daniel's work and diligence. A motion was made by David Woods to include a word of thanks for Daniel in the minutes and this was seconded by Hope Knight. The Vestry unanimously approved the motion. Rev. Peter clarified that Daniel will stay on the Vestry. Regarding Daniel's replacement, the Vestry went into an Executive Session to discuss. Charlie Merwin made a motion to approve John Black as the new Accounting Warden. The motion was seconded by Danielle Trucksess and approved unanimously by the Vestry. Charlie Merwin said that in January of 2026 when John Black's Vestry term is over, the Vestry will revisit the issue of Accounting Warden. He clarified that John is serving an interim role.

Opportunity to purchase historic organ

Rev. Peter Vanderveen introduced the topic of acquiring a historic "Father Willis" organ. Andrew Senn, music director, was invited to this portion of the meeting and spoke about this opportunity. The pipes are located currently in San Francisco, CA. The Vestry members discussed the need for the organ and the potential costs involved, including the purchase of the pipes and transportation. The Vestry members discussed the importance of the organ for the church's music program and the potential benefits of acquiring a historical instrument. It was also discussed that this would likely be a multi-year project, from purchase to completion. The Ayres family have offered \$50,000 towards this project and there was also an anonymous gift of \$50,000. Peter prompted a vote on this issue - to authorize the acquisition of the organ for \$135,000 - all were in favor; no one was opposed.

Memorial Garden Plot Sale

The previously approved sale of a memorial garden plot at rate of \$1200 was discussed. The Vestry members discussed the issue of setting a rate for non-parishioners who purchase memorial garden plots, with a recommendation to set the rate at \$3200. The Vestry members discussed the importance of having clear rates for memorial garden plots (for both members and non-members), and the need to update this information on the website. Charlie Merwin made a motion to

sell the previously approved plot at a rate of \$1200, and to set the rate of \$3200 for non-parishioners purchasing plots going forward. Hope Knight seconded the motion. Vestry unanimously approved the proposal.

Question to a Vestry Member about Pride Month

Hope Knight said she was asked by a parishioner if the church was planning to do anything specific to celebrate Pride Month, which is the month of June. Rev. Peter Vanderveen discussed the importance of being welcoming to all members of the community, and that the church can communicate its inclusivity without politicizing the church. He shared that diversity in our church - including political diversity - greatly benefits us all. He also said that recently Ken Garner and he made changes on the church's website emphasizing that we are an inclusive congregation.

Parish Administrator's Report

Joshua Castano, Parish Administrator, reported that our revenues are slightly over what we budgeted, and our expenses are slightly below what we had budget, and that has been on track for several months now. This is a helpful cash flow situation going into the summer months as a decrease in revenue is always expected at this time. The impact of the \$550,000 gift which went into the endowment was discussed. He clarified that this gift will show up in the May books (not the April books). Joshua also clarified how the \$550 k gift was accounted for on the balance sheet. These assets were primarily put into the unrestricted endowment at Vanguard (\$529 k) and the rest, \$21k, is in the operating account. Joshua shared that Debbie DeBenedictis, our new Finance Manager, has been a terrific team player who done a lot of work in a short amount of time. Cheryl Masterman made a motion to accept the Financial Report and Hope Knight seconded the motion. Vestry unanimously approved the report.

Note – Agenda did not include an Accounting Warden's report.

Closing Prayer: Rev. Jeremy O'Neill

The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniell D. Trucksess
Vestry Member