

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting -Wednesday, October 22, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm with a devotional offered by the Rev. Erika Takacs. Those in attendance were the Rev. Dixon Kinser, the Rev. Lucy Strandlund, the Rev. Nick VanHorn, Morris Freeman, Erin Jones, Salem Parham, Lucy Paynter, Sheldon Fort, John White, Charlotte Broughton, Jack Scruggs, Kathryn Vernon, Tom McDowell, with Grady Phillips and Kim Yerino.

Dixon asked for approval of the minutes from the September 24, 2025, meeting. Lucy P. moved to accept the minutes, Jack seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Tom McDowell, substituting for St. Paul's treasurer Julie Williams gave the current financial report, and said the church is ahead on pledges and grants. The only overages are in maintenance and worship, which were expenses approved previously by the vestry. In addition, the finance committee has been working hard on the new financial collar policy, so it is more user friendly for the committee and the vestry. The capital campaign (Renewal 2.0) has paid back everything except \$100K and is expecting \$400K from estate gifts.

Dixon shared an update for St. Paul's Stewardship Director Victoria Bass on our stewardship campaign. This year's Stewards of God's Grace campaign has raised \$1.5M, with 265 pledging units, tracking ahead of last year. The stewardship gatherings have been very successful and well attended. As of tonight's meeting, over 70% of people who attended the gatherings have pledged. Erika said one of the common topics at the gatherings was online giving and the wish for something to place in the offering plate as a symbol for their online gift. Victoria is working on a physical flyer for this purpose and Erika provided a sample for the vestry to see. The vestry was mostly positive, and the idea continues to be workshopped.

Work continues on an updated St. Paul's gift acceptance policy and will be presented to the vestry when a draft is ready.

The Ecclesiastical Arts committee would like to take their allotted portion of the Memorial Fund, amounting to \$10,000 (one third of the Memorial Fund). Erin made a motion to move \$10K from Memorials to Ecclesiastical Arts and Charlotte seconded and the motion passed.

Dixon shared it is time to restock the materials for the Welcome Kits given out to visitors on Sunday mornings. In line with last year's allocation for 250 kits, Dixon proposed an up-to amount of \$3,600 to restock the items for the kits. A motion was made by Lucy P. and seconded by Morris, and the motion passed.

In the rector's report, Dixon and Tom shared that they have spoken to the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office about switching our Off Duty Officer from the WSPD to the FCSO. The FCSO officers are more available given the differing needs of the two departments. With the FCSO, an officer would be here with a squad car each Sunday, and the cost would be the same. We would have a 2-3 officer rotation, allowing continuity. The FCSO will start on November 16th. A motion to approve was made by Kathryn, with a second from John White, and the motion carried.

Dixon shared that a new Welcome Committee has been formed and that they will start their work on Sunday, November 2nd. They will be present and identifiable at the 9am and 11:15am services, and will be doing newcomer transition work (dinners, gatherings, etc.).

Dixon brought the updated mock-up for the Sesquicentennial Wall mural to the meeting and asked for vestry member feedback after the meeting.

In clergy reports Erika shared that the first choral evensong was a success, and the next one is on All Saints Day, November 2nd. Also, there will be two Thanksgiving services, the Winston-Salem interfaith service before Thanksgiving, and our Thanksgiving-Eve liturgy in the chapel.

Nick shared that confirmation is starting for adults and youth on October 26 and he and Lucy S. are making podcasts for the class which will be available soon. Nick was pleased to share that Donnie Fragile has become a postulate and LP Mua will be ordained on December 17th at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, High Point.

Lucy S. gave an update on Christian formation and small groups, noting that they were well-received and well-attended. This past Sunday offered a class about current times in the world, and an enneagram retreat is scheduled for November 7 and 8. Adult confirmation classes start this Sunday.

In the Sr. Warden's report, Morris shared that Hal Burnette and Houston Simms will be the non-vestry members of the Vestry Selection Committee, and that the committee will begin their work shortly. Morris also shared that he and Colleen will host a Vestry Christmas party at their home on Wednesday, December 3rd.

In the Jr. Warden's report, Charlotte updated the Vestry on the playground, saying a committee has sought a preliminary quote on work to update the playground and address drainage erosion issues. A second bid will be sought, and the work will be ongoing.

Though absent, Jackie Piscatelli let Dixon know that Love Literacy needs nominations of St. Paul's members for their board. They are looking for people with finance experience, legal experience, and accounting experience.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.