

February Vestry Meeting Minutes
Vestry Retreat, St. Paul's Youth Room

2/7/26

1:27pm-2:30pm

Vestry meeting 1:27 PM called to order by Rev. Dixon Kinser...

- Charlotte Broughton elected as senior warden—Ralph Womble first & Erin Adams second
- Julie Williams elected a treasurer—Charlotte Broughton first & John White second
- Betsy Reiners elected secretary -Lucy Paynter first & Jackie Piscetelli second (all unanimous)
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Charlotte, as the new Senior Warden, nominated Jackie Piscetelli to serve as Junior Warden. Jackie has agreed to let her name stand. Ralph W. offers first motion, Erin Adams seconds. Election is unanimous. Jackie Piscetelli elected as Junior Warden.

Any questions around emailed packet from November 2025 vestry meeting minutes (11/19). No additions or corrections were shared or raised about the November minutes. Bill Davis asked questions about the costs of the verger robes that Ecclesiastical Arts commissioned and we're approved in the November meeting. Charlotte Broughton explained some context about why robes like these are expensive (they are handmade by workers paid a living wage, heirloom pieces to last for decades, consistent with other art/paraments purchased for worship in the church.) Rev. Kinser reported that no tariffs ended up being paid on the robes because they had a religious exemption.

Ralph moved to support November Vestry minutes as presented with Jackie Piscetelli as a second. Minutes approved unanimously.

Financials:

Dixon talked about "Stewards of God's Grace" update. Dixon shared that there will be an update on this campaign at every upcoming 2026 vestry meeting. Discussion ensued about "chasing down" the last 50-60 pledges. This is not unique to SPE and occurs at other big churches based upon peer-set church information.

We are at \$2,907,666.67 for the campaign with a goal of \$3 million. If all the 30 TBD pledges come in, we will exceed the goal.

584 pledging units with a goal of 600 units

Average pledge is \$4,978 up from \$4,600 in 2025

Dixon is very pleased with the pacing above and year to year average pledge growth since 2024

Rector's Report

Gift Acceptance Policies Discussion:

Dixon shared updates around donor/parishioner gifts and the questions from Vestry around legal concerns specific mainly to real estate gifts---and this has been conveyed to church counsel Mark Stafford. Vestry took time to review the documents in today's meeting. Dixon will call for an email vote to pass this recommendation.

Per Charlotte, this recommendation comes a well-resourced, capable group of SPE members with solid recommendations. General discussion around ad-hoc or unplanned gifts. Erin raised some questions specific to the gift and sale of physical real estate assets and who/how approves such an event occurrence. Discussion was around limiting and discussion around rushed decision-making process without a thorough vetting process. EG: a gift of real estate that has not been thoroughly examined and vetted and/or the benefactor is in a rush to gift it to SPE for tax or unclear reasons. Discussion continued and confirmed that this paragraph did indeed need omitting from the gift acceptance policy. No further vestry action is required a/o 2/6 per Dixon. The parish chancellor will review the policy with vestry recommendations and revised version will be sent to vestry for an email vote or for a vote at the March meeting.

2026-27 Vestry meeting dates reviewed

Vestry is typically on the 4th Wednesday of each month and there are some conflicts due to Holy Week, December, and any month with five Wednesdays.

Email Dixon and Charlotte (senior warden) if you are going to miss a monthly Vestry meeting.

Campus signage project is almost complete!! Internal signs are in-house. External signs are in production with a plan for indoor and outdoor installation by Easter 2026. Per Dixon, this is a HUGE undertaking with lots of

work by Jason Franklin and Rick Duggins. He is very excited about the new signs!

Augsburg Lutheran has been joining us for the Easter Vigil and will be doing so again for Easter. We are in full communion with “that brand of Lutheran”, per Dixon.

Clergy reports:

Rev. Nick VanHorn:

Men’s speaker series is this Wednesday. Women are welcome. Last speaker series for a while.

Pancake Dinner and Ash Wednesday are upcoming. Nick advocated for attendance at the Pancake Dinner and proceeds go to youth mission trip. Theme of trip may change this year due to Sesquicentennial

Confirmation continues to move ahead and last class was online.

Rev. Lucy Strandlund:

Lucy gave an update about Lent and is sharing Lenten news and programming this coming week (week of 2/8). NO Wednesday night suppers this year. Low attendance last year so she is offering some things to supplant Wednesday night suppers. She is “trying something different” this year.

Rev. Erika Takacs:

Sharing of plans to more depthfully message the introduction of the Verger program to SPE. Also questions about service offerings during Lent. Schedule will not change materially for Holy Week but parishioners often have questions.

Noon Eucharist is proving to be popular with as few as four but sometimes as high as 18.

Erika shared that Tim King was ordained by the NH diocese but helping here in WS. Nancy Vaders and Erika will train Tim in some liturgical, deacon-esque responsibilities. Nancy is not full-time so Tim will help out on Sundays she is not serving. This will supplement his training. He doesn’t work on SPE staff and is not in residence but is helping SPE (specifically Erica and Nancy). Clergy seems really positive on Tim and his contributions and interests in service.

Senior Warden update (Charlotte Broughton):

Charlotte shared that the vestry sign-up went out to Senior class, is delayed in going to Junior class, and will go last to First-year class. Charlotte shared 12 expected sign-ups per year. It's not just Sundays but Ash Wednesday, Holy Week services. Vestry is there to make sure things are running smoothly, collect and submit the money to the safe with pairing of an usher, nursery care, walk around the grounds. Ralph and Charlotte voiced the helpfulness of shadowing a VOD.

Erika shared that vergers are "always backstage" and/or in a pinch if something arises up on the altar. Vergers coordinate what's happening at the front of the church or high-altar-adjacent areas.

Lucy shared that at the 7:30 and the 5:00 PM Sunday services our vestry is the main source of help and they lean on the vestry for support, shadowing, and general help as it arises. Lucy shared her gratitude that vestry stays at/after the 5 PM when alone or 1-2 lingering parishioners in the space.

Lucy Paynter shared that Anne Butler had passed away today and was allowed to share this news. There was some sadness registered and Dixon agreed to adjourn with a prayer for Anne Butler's passing.

Dixon adjourned the official Vestry meeting at 2:13 PM.

Meeting followed by Executive Session.

Respectfully Submitted,

John White