

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
VESTRY MEETING  
MINUTES  
May 28, 2026

**Present:** Senior Warden-Richard Updegrave, Junior Warden-John Corbishley, Treasurer-David Brierley, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, Jeff Dugan, Elizabeth Ripley, Nancy Kimble, Sarah Barker, David Burke, Murry Edwards, and the Rev. Dr. John Gregory Prior.

**Absent:** Jerry Culver, Jason DeFalco, Sheila Collins, and the Rector, Jennifer Pedrick

Rick called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. by reading a prayer by John O'Donohue entitled *Anam Cara*.

**Reconnecting with one another in the presence of God** – Rick

Rick divided us into groups of 2, and asked us to share our last experience of prayer, then write a prayer for our partner.

**Realm Updates** – Jeff

Jeff met with Scott from Realm to discuss our transition. Jeff intends to proceed in the following manner

1. Determine best practices
2. De-dup (remove duplicates) our member database. (Jeff will be working on this June 10<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who has the time and/or the ability to help with this process is invited to come along. "Funky" addresses will also be cleared up.
3. Define ministries and members of those ministries.
4. Connect Vanco.
5. Create groups and assign members.
6. Set up a pilot group, and begin.

Realm has a fantastic launch kit, with posters and flyers, and they will even do a congregation-wide training on its use. In order to proceed, we really need policies

- for any online forums we set up., and
- a good foundational policy for online behavioral standards. (The Diocese of Massachusetts has produced *Digital Communication and Social Media: Good Use Guidelines for Clergy and Congregations*. This would be a good thing to look at, and perhaps use as a model.)

Other things to think about regarding the Realm transition -

- Purchasing a check scanner. Sara says this makes things so much quicker and easier.
- We have 4 hours left of free training.

- The discussion around levels of Realm to be used and accessed, by whom and how frequently, might include some pastoral issues. More thoughtful discussion needs to be had.

Rick thanked Jeff for all his hard work.

#### **Associate Treasurer's Report** – David Burke

David Burke plans to add a commentary to each quarterly report, in order to go a step beyond the traditional “rows and columns” monthly report. In our continued efforts at transparency, it probably would be beneficial to share this commentary with the congregation. We need to think about how best to do this.

In March, after the vestry's 3 new members joined us, David did a very effective explanation of the standard Treasurer's Report, pointing out what kind of report was on what page, etc. This report would be beneficial to repeat every March, as not only the *new* vestry members, but veteran vestry member might profit from this kind of explanation.

#### **Treasurer's Report** – David Brierley

David has adjusted his reports to make fund raising efforts and expenses related to those efforts more visible.

We have had a donation of \$5000 to help with our snow removal overage. Yay!

We also have some additional rent monies (\$2500) coming in from the farmer who rents the fields behind the church.

#### **Transition to New Financial Advisors** – David Brierley

Paperwork has been filed to transfer funds and open new accounts. Ron has requested more information on why certain investments were chosen. David Burke said the Finance Committee is seeking a happy medium between due diligence and giving our advisors total control. Creating a new and updated Investment Policy should help with this.

#### **ECC Solar Panels – Update** – David Brierley

David Brierley felt it would be prudent to renew the motion made several years ago, concerning St. Mary's participation in the Diocesan solar panel project.

David Brierley moved that the Vestry authorize the Executive Committee to review and if appropriate, enter into a contract agreement on the behalf of the Vestry and St. Mary's Church, to be a part of the Diocesan solar panel initiative. Rick seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **Sarah Gibbs Trust** – Murry Edwards

The trustees met in May to discuss several ongoing issues, most of which seem to have been resolved amicably.

Jeff Belden has resigned as a member of the trustees, and long-time chair. He was present at the May meeting to give context and support. Current members of the trust are

- Independent trustees – Fay Sisson, Paul Westrom and Ted Bierman.
- Vestry appointed trustees – Rick Updegrove, Murry Edwards, and David Brierley.
- The Bishop, the Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely was also in attendance.

Murry was elected chair; Paul W. is vice-chair and David B. is clerk and treasurer. The next meeting of the Sarah Gibbs Trust is November 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Archives** – Mattie and Murry

Members of the newly formed Archives Committee are Murry Edwards, Julie Zecher and Mattie Gustafson. They presented a report to the vestry which included immediate goals –

1. Focus on the following records for the 2000's - (2000 – present)
  - Vestry Agenda and Minutes
  - Annual Reports
  - Annual Meeting Minutes
  - Treasurer's Reports
  - Senior, Junior and Rector's Reports
2. Create standard formatting nomenclature for all documents
3. Upload all documents to Google Drive.
4. Create an archival quality, print copy of all documents
5. Decide upon and provide access to these documents.
6. Insure preservation of these documents.

The committee requested approval to spend up to \$500 for archival materials (paper, containers, etc.) for the reproduction and storage of these important documents. The request was approved.

### **Junior Warden's Report** – John C.

May 31<sup>st</sup> will be our last Sunday in the historic church until October. The restoration of the historic church's doors is set to begin at the end of June.

### **Christian Formation Report** – Liz R.

Both pilot programs for Christian formation for children went very well. *Godly Play* will continue through May, and take the summer off. Rick offered thanks to Jason, Paul Westrom and all who took part in *Godly Play* this past year.

Tweens and Teens and their Friday night program will continue through the summer, switching to every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday from 6-8 p.m. Liz, who is one of the adults leading this group, said they are growing a great group of kids, and everyone seems to be enjoying themselves.

John C. offered to donate Gulls tickets to the group for June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Rick thanked Liz and her cohorts who lead this program.

**Consent Agenda**

Murry made a motion, seconded by John C., that we pass the Consent Agenda, consisting of the Treasurer's Report, and Minutes for April 2026. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m. with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mattie E. Gustafson, Clerk