

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Fayetteville, AR**

The mission of St. Paul's is to explore and celebrate God's infinite grace, acceptance, and love.

Vestry Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2023 - 5:30pm – St. Paul's Peach Room / Zoom Video conference

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87327692702?pwd=eE5VUlpOU94YlpDTU5FWUoxc0Fwdz09>.

Vestry Members and Attendance

Present

Elizabeth (Liz) Rosen, Robert Murphy, Jeannie Whayne; Jr. Warden, Myria Allen (zoom), Peter Quinlisk, Kristin Payne, Jeremy Oxford; Sr. Warden, Julie Chambers,

Absent

Michael Hollomon, Jerry Rose, Connor Eldridge

Other Attendees

Evan Garner – Rector, Sara Milford - Associate Rector (zoom), David McMath – Treasurer, Karen Hodges, Mandy Kelly, Mac Mayfield, Jim Norys, Justin Sneed – Vestry Elect members, Chad Cox – Clerk

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

- Call to order at 5:34 PM with a reading from Luke
- Introductions
- Reminder of committee work and preparing for the monthly meetings
 - Best practice: Email committee notes to Vestry in advance
 - Committee Assignment review

Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

- Motion by RM, second by ER, approved with the following corrections:
 - “Alter” should be “Altar” and “Episcopal *Collegiate* School gym”

Treasurer's Report

- If all 2023 pledges come in, we'll be \$50,000 short for the year
 - \$8,000 better than anticipated at this time
 - Evan believes we will end the year with a small surplus
- Two errors
 - Promised gift to endowment and a pledge card submitted for same item
 - 2022 gift intended for a 2023 gift as a prepayment
- Report received upon motion by PQ, second by JC, Motion carried

Committee Reports

- Formation

- No report at this time
- Praise for the work of Beth Maze
- Outreach
 - No report at this time
 - Appreciation for the cards for Arkansas Justice Reform Coalition (AJRC)
 - Praise for the work of Jerry Rose and his contributions to Vestry
- Parish Life
 - Reminders for *Let's Get Acquainted* sign-ups are sent
 - February 28 – Quarterly event (details to come)
- Properties
 - Elevator is up and running!
 - Mother board replacement worked, but if anything else goes wrong, it will be replacing everything except the car
 - Chair Lift is still out of commission and no diagnosis yet
 - Columbarium needs expansion (self-sufficient)
 - St. Thomas Guild getting traction and finding opportunities
 - Look to add expected repair costs and timeline for budget purposes
- Finance
 - Unfilled 2023 pledges
 - Evan's newsletter and Dave's letter
 - Increase 2024 pledges
 - Increase amount per head
 - Trimmed budget to be presented
 - Best approach [balanced budget with certain needs left out (outside fundraiser), deficient budget, reduced service/needs]
 - Manage Anne Reichardt gift appropriately and in her spirit of giving
 - Bassett lease is coming up
 - Evaluation for rent amount for market value
 - Summer a good time to discuss upcoming plans for the tenant and St. Paul's
- Stewardship
 - BBC Meeting
 - Good opportunity to synergize that work and the Church
 - Pledge Outreach update
 - Going well anecdotally, but new income has not been added yet to see a bump.
 - Subcommittee Feedback can be valuable

Small Break 7:15 to 7:22 PM

Wardens' Reports

- Sr. Warden
 - No report at this time
 - Questions about year-end report and the process

- Jr. Warden
 - No report, but would like to move forward with *Golden Thread* in the coming year

Clergy Reports

- Associate Rector Report
 - Report via email is coming
 - Newcomers are active and that's exciting
- Rector Report
 - Report via email
 - Review and update on Pastoral Response Bishop considers the matter complete and external of the Vestry
 - Email from the Bishop considers the matter complete
 - Consultant need is a discussion for the Vestry retreat
 - Reports from 2022 Vestry work should be included

Other Business

- Nominations Committee Update
 - Endowment Committee
 - Steve Zega
 - Motion to close nominations by PQ, seconded by JC, approved
 - Nominee accepted with vote
 - Convention Delegate
 - Trent Palmer
 - Motion to close nominations by PQ, seconded by JC, approved
 - Nominee accepted with vote
 - Jr. Warden
 - Elizabeth Rosen
 - Motion to close nominations by JO, seconded by JC, approved
 - Nominee accepted with vote
 - Sr. Warden is selected by the Rector = current Jr. Warden to serve a Sr. Warden
- Reichardt Resolution
 - Motion to close the accounts and receive the funds as written by RM, seconded by JO, approved
 - Motion *give the NWA Federal Credit account to Adaire Middleton as expressed in letter from Anne* by RM, seconded by JC, approved
 - UPDATE on 12/29
 - I'm writing with a time-sensitive request. Since Anne Reichardt died, I have learned that she still had a mortgage on her home. Because of the beneficiary deed she filed before her death, we receive not only the house but also the mortgage. St. Paul's now owes \$28,750 on that mortgage, which has an interest rate of 3.875%. After discussing options via email, the finance committee recommends we use the cash she gave the church (a little over \$31,000) to pay off the mortgage rather than begin making monthly payments.

Since payment is due on January 1 and late after January 15, I'm requesting that you vote on this matter by email.

- Email vote to approve the finance committee's recommendation to pay off the mortgage PASSED.
- Surplus Use
 - Motion that *any surplus be earmarked to a special reserve fund for maintenance* by RM, seconded by JO, motion carries
- Salaries
 - HR Committee recommends a 3% cost of living increase across the board with the exception of Sara Milford – Associate Rector, who should get a 10% increase
 - Motion to accept recommendation by RM, seconded by JO, motion approves

Pastoral Update, Prayer, and Adjournment

- Adjournment at 8:37 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Chad Cox – Vestry Clerk

Next Meeting of the Vestry: January 14, 2024, via zoom (1:00 PM)

Upcoming Vestry Events

- Bishop John Harmon Ordination: January 6, Episcopal Collegiate School gym in Little Rock
- January Meeting: Sunday, January 14, at 1:00 PM (8 days early)
 - Zoom only (due to inclement weather)
- Vestry and Staff Party: Friday, January 19, at the Garners' House
- Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 21, at 10:00 AM
 - Installation of New Vestry at 11:00 AM service
- Vestry Retreat: February 2-4 at Camp Mitchell