

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2026, 6:00 PM
Christian Education Building, Room 1
(FINAL)

Attendance

Vestry present: Jeff Anderson, Bill Byrd, Rebecca Franz, Margaret Ott (via Zoom), Natalie Lapacek-Trout, and Beau Womack.

Vestry absent: Randy Centanni, Joel Simõneau, and Dennis Utt.

Clergy present: Rev. Taylor Johnson

Guest: David Mack

Staff present: Cynde Tannehill

Call to Order/Opening prayer

Father Taylor convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. and opened with prayer.

Approval of Minutes

The May 19, 2026, minutes were presented with no additions or corrections. Rebecca Franz moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Natalie Lapacek-Trout seconded the motion. **Following a vote, the motion carried.**

Treasurer Report – David Mack

David Mack reported that the parish remains in a strong financial position. Year-to-date income is 18% over budget, while expenses are 3% over budget, due in part to the unplanned replacement of an air-conditioning unit. Consideration of a proposed budget update, including adjustments related to personnel changes and other expenses, was deferred until the new rector, Rev. Emily Rowell-Brown, is present. Discussion regarding a possible increase to clergy discretionary funds was also deferred.

The Vestry discussed the distinction between general fund and restricted fund accounts. Unspent general fund monies, including amounts budgeted for parish events, return to the general fund at year-end and do not carry forward. Restricted funds carry forward from year to year but may be used only for their designated purposes. The Vestry agreed that large donations designated for a specific future purpose, such as the annual parish picnic, should be placed in restricted funds to ensure the funds remain available for that purpose. This discussion followed review of a \$7,500 donation intended for the 2025 picnic, which had been absorbed into the general fund due to accounting procedures. For most contributions, use of the general fund remains preferred because it provides greater flexibility.

Planned events for the current year, including the parish picnic, Mardi Gras, and chili cook-off, will proceed as scheduled, with expenses tracked to inform the following year's budget. No programs will need to be reduced or eliminated to fund the parish picnic.

The Finance Committee, consisting of Al Turner, Todd Clem, and David Mack, will serve as the audit team, with 2025 Treasurer Chips Lanier required to attend. A Vestry member, possibly Margaret Ott, may need to participate. The audit will review financial procedures for compliance with diocesan standards. David Mack will schedule the audit.

Clergy Report – Rev. Taylor Johnson

The Vestry and Father Taylor discussed the formal transfer of nursery oversight from the Worship Committee to Community Life/Growth I to reflect current operational practice and ensure alignment with Safeguarding God's Children guidelines. Senior Warden Beau Womack moved to approve the transfer, and Natalie Lapacek-Trout seconded the motion. **Following a vote, the motion carried.**

Vestry committee reports should be submitted to Cynde Tannehill, Vestry Clerk, by the end of the day on the Wednesday before the Tuesday Vestry meeting. Non-emergency items submitted after the deadline will be deferred to the following month's Vestry meeting.

Sr. Warden's Report – Beau Womack

Senior Warden Beau Womack reported that he and diocesan consultant Jane Ellis met with the new rector, Rev. Emily Rowell-Brown, on June 10. Rev. Rowell-Brown has closed on their house and is preparing for her transition. She plans to observe parish operations for six to eight weeks before making major decisions and is aware of key church matters. The current service schedule will remain in place through September, and the children's sermon will resume. A simple welcome with cake will be offered at each service on her first Sunday, July 19, with a larger reception planned for August. Catering arrangements will consider Rev. Rowell-Brown and her family's vegan diet.

Jr. Warden's Report – Joel Simőneau

Junior Warden Joel Simőneau submitted a report but was not present at the meeting. The report noted a broken window at the Amy West House requiring repair, with a plywood cover ready for installation. A separate email to the Vestry also recommended considering a \$5,200 budget for new furniture and office updates, including patching and painting, pending completion of an inventory. Further discussion was deferred until the following month, when Joel and the new rector can participate.

Ministry Reports

The EYC mission trip was reported as successful, with youth leading VBS in Belize for more than 50 children. The youth will also assist with St. Matthew's VBS beginning June 22. EYC events are planned through September.

The Gratitude Committee continues to engage local churches and is planning a community-wide gratitude celebration at the new LDS church. T-shirt sales are progressing well.

Closing Comments/Prayer

The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjourn

With no further business to address, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynde Tannehill

Cynde Tannehill, Vestry Clerk

Date: June 19, 2026