

Calvary Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2025, 7:00pm

Present: The Rev. Robert Harvey; Emily Sityar, Warden; Ted Andrews, Larry Bernhard, Nancy Bolton, Howard Craig, Laurie Kaiser, Dennis McCoy, Janet Metcalfe, Janet Newall, Guy Whalen, Vestry; Michael Bommer (Treasurer); Lorrie Archdeacon (Fellowship); Melinda Mets (Clerk)

Excused: Bryan Gorney

On Zoom: George Faeth, Charles Golightly, Lynn Niendorf, Leann McConchie, Ron Martin

7:00 Call to Order:

Fr. Robert Harvey

Father Robert opened the meeting with prayer
The September minutes had previously been approved electronically

7:03 Treasurer's Report: Q3 update

Michael Bommer

Michael Bommer (Treasurer) reviewed the church's finances as of the end of the third quarter (9/30/25), covering the Operating Budget, Balance Sheet, Consolidated Funds, and Endowment Expenses. He also presented a draft of the proposed 2026 budget numbers.

The motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Ted Andrews and seconded by Laurie Kaiser. All voted in favor.

7:32 Fellowship Committee Report

Lorrie Archdeacon

The Fellowship Ministry is responsible for helping to build fellowship in the areas of Coffee Hours, Newcomers' Events, Special Receptions and Potluck Dinners. Co-chairs are Lorrie Archdeacon and Amy Gorney. Lorrie presented the committee's report by highlighting a few key points.

Many coffee hour dates are still open and it's a bit challenging to fill the spots. Lorrie requested each Vestry member sign up to take a week, along with the committee they're aligned with. Recently, the concept of "potluck" Sundays has been introduced. These seem to work well because rather than relying on one person to provide the goodies, on a potluck Sunday six people each bring one item (homemade or store bought,) which makes it easier to participate.

In recent years, the January Annual Meeting has been organized by the Fellowship Committee, however, this event is not technically in their purview. Previously, the Annual Meeting was organized and run by the Vestry; Lorrie requested that going forward the Vestry co-chair the meeting with Fellowship.

The motion to accept the Fellowship Committee's report was made by Nancy Bolton and seconded by Larry Bernhard. All voted in favor.

7:44 Parsons Pipe Organ Proposal**Ron Martin**

Ron Martin, Organist/Choirmaster/Music Director, explained how the Calvary pipe organ works. There are many moving parts (literally!) and they undergo standard maintenance (similar to changing the oil on a car) several times per year. However, the organ now needs substantial updates, including new parts, some of which would be shipped from Germany.

In addition, there is a cost for the shipping, plus labor and travel expenses for the craftsmen from Canandaigua who will do the work. Ron outlined several proposals for the updates; the most cost-effective option he recommended and the Vestry agreed to includes the parts (\$35,500) and shipping, labor and travel expenses (\$102,990) for a total of just under \$140,000. This would be paid from the money in the Kryder Organ Fund, earmarked for this purpose.

The motion to utilize the appropriate designated funds for organ repairs was made by Dennis McCoy, seconded by Janet Metcalfe and Nancy Bolten, with all voting in favor.

Ron also noted that Calvary purchased a harpsichord. Funds for this purchase came from the Great Music Fund (\$5,000) and donations from choir members (\$5,000).

8:09 Diocesan Convention Report**Janet Newall**

The Diocesan Convention was held October 10-11. Calvary was represented by Fr. Robert, Deacon Leann, Janet Newall, George Faeth, Bruce Davidson. Key points:

- Stephen T. Lane was elected interim Provisional Bishop.
- Bruce Davidson was elected to a 2-year term on the Standing Committee.
- The 2026 diocesan budget was approved. It is a balanced budget, reflecting the solid financial health of the diocese.
- Seven Resolutions were adopted. A summary can be found in Janet's report, attached to these minutes.

Resolution NY-F resulted in much conversation/debate, both at the Convention and during the Vestry meeting. (Res NY-F also attached.)

The crux of this resolution is the Diocese's encouragement that all congregations post Leviticus 19:33-34 at their entrances, on their website, and in their bulletins:

“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

While most agree with the general premise, the way in which the Diocese presented the request was cause for discomfort.

In addition, this brought up the incredibly difficult fine line Fr. Robert and Deacon Leann walk every week between preaching the gospel vs. acknowledging what's going on in the news vs. having to be non-political vs. having to suppress their true political feelings and points of view. It's often difficult to avoid speaking about politically-charged issues currently in the news, especially when that week's scripture readings tie in perfectly with whatever's going on.

Vestry members shared their points of view on:

- How to address the resolution with the congregation (open forum? Sunday dinner?)
- Whether or not sermon topics should be “kept in check” or freely presented, offering open-minded listeners the option to apply the parts of each message that work for them and discard the points that don’t
- What Anglicans/Episcopalians believe in relation to what’s going on in the news
- Whether Calvary would support Leviticus 19:33-34 or some other part of the Bible such as Matthew 25.

The Vestry agreed to take the next month to consider the options and potential resolutions prior to the next meeting.

9:02 Rector’s Report

Fr. Robert Harvey

The Vestryperson in charge for the next few weeks:

Oct 26 – Dennis McCoy
Nov 2 – Nancy Bolton
Nov 9 – Howard Craig
Nov 16 – Janet Metcalfe

Our Little Roses

Calvary is excited to be sponsoring a mission trip to Our Little Roses in San Pedro Sula, Honduras in October, 2026.

Our Little Roses (OLR) is a residential home for girls who have been through unimaginable hardship. Many have been abandoned, orphaned, or abused. Some have been trafficked. Some have been "signed over" by parents who are too poor to care for them or who fear for their safety. There are around 70 girls at Our Little Roses at any given time, ranging in ages from 2 to 18 years old. Details can be found in the attachment; anyone interested can contact Fr. Robert, Emily Sityar, or Norine Eaton.

9:10 Two Year Warden Report

Emily Sityar, on behalf of Bryan Gorney

Property concerns:

Mold assessment underway in Mike Way’s former office
Wes Stone heading the effort to replace gutters; estimate currently at \$27,000
Brad Archdeacon working to get dysfunctional hot water heater replaced; cost estimated at \$3,500
Progress is being made on the September recommendation to update parking for people with disabilities. There will be two permanent spaces along the wall, plus two additional temporary spots that can be put into commission during Sunday services or major events.

Security concerns:

Fr. Robert found out that the Amherst Police can do a risk assessment on the property (doors & windows). They can also conduct active shooter training for church leadership.

8:35 One Year Warden Report

Emily Sityar

The following parishioners have volunteered to serve on this year's Nominating Committee:

Emily Sityar (Chair)
Lou Butenschoen
Charles Golightly
Geri Mycio
Bernie Ruof
Amber Sastry

The motion to accept the Nominating Committee's membership as proposed was made by Dennis McCoy and seconded by Guy Whalen, with all voting in favor.

- Nominations will be accepted from now until Sunday, November 16
- The list of confirmed candidates will be presented for approval at the December 16 vestry meeting
- "Meet the candidate" forums will take place during church services on Jan 10 & 11
- The next Vestry will be announced at the January annual meeting.

9:15 New Business

After doing a bit of research, Dennis McCoy found a remote door lock control system for \$700. This would enable office staff to admit people into the building without having to go downstairs and physically open the door. Doors are locked during the day on behalf of Pixie Village Preschool.

The Vestry discussed bringing back the Wardens' Forum, which was held once a month between the 8:00 and 10:00 services. It's an opportunity for parishioners to hear a summary of the previous Vestry meeting. The forum has been suspended because it takes place the same time as Sunday choir practice, and very few people attend.

Janet Metcalfe noted that more Eucharistic Ministers are needed. During the Saturday 4pm service Fr. Robert often has no help during communion. On Sundays there are three Eucharistic Ministers at the 8am service but really five are needed. Janet encouraged Vestry members to think of ways to get more people involved.

9:24 Dismissal

The next Vestry meeting is November 18th at 7pm.

Respectfully submitted: Melinda Metz
Vestry Clerk

Date: November 11, 2025