Trinity Vestry Meeting Minutes

Vestry Meeting

October 28, 2026

Present: Elizabeth Molitors, Brian Bargiel, Michael Neal Arnold, Sarah McCarter, Jean Lange-Davis,

Lucy Bell, Alexander Thomas, Fred Williams, Ellen O'Connell Whittet, Clare Carey-Pisani, Michelle Petty

Absent: Sarah Thomas, Jay Casbon, Claude Garciacelay, Carol Ann Manzi, Keith Cobell

Agenda Amendments and update on Carol Ann Manzi

After dinner and a devotional, the meeting began at 6:13pm. Elizabeth requested an amendment to the agenda to include a discussion on the money narrative and an update on Carol Ann's status on the vestry. The vestry approved the amended agenda following a motion by Fred and a second by Alex.

Elizabeth shared that Carol Ann has been approved for the next step in her discernment process for ordination. Because she will be participating in a diocesan discernment year at St. Mikes in Isla Vista through May, she is required to step away from her vestry duties at Trinity. The nominating committee will seek someone to serve out the remaining two years of her term. This term will start after the February annual meeting.

Financial Reports and Special Gifts

Cami has returned to work after a month of vacation but has not had time to prepare the September financials for approval this month.

Elizabeth noted that Trinity has received a $50,000 unrestricted gift from an anonymous donor. Also, Trinity received an estate gift of $25,000 from a donor that will be directed toward the "Looking Beyond Ourselves" fund.

Money Narrative Retreat Discussion

Vestry members discussed "meeting the moment" in light of the priorities identified at the recent leadership retreat. Various interpretations were shared, including responding to social justice issues, staying nimble with resources, and practicing active listening. Discussion points also included being able to reprioritize funds for emergent community needs and maintaining openness to generational differences within the congregation. Suggestions were made to build agility into future budgets through more discretionary funds and better communication channels for parishioners to raise concerns.

Buildings and Grounds Report

Michael shared an update on the stained glass window repair. Following the vestry's approval to spend $140,000, Judson was contacted and confirmed readiness to begin, with completion expected in 2027.

The decision was made to postpone the start until after the holidays. A contract has been signed with a landscape architect and the project is underway beginning with plant selection and irrigation review.

A $50,000 anonymous gift has been received for library renovations, while another $25,000 is expected in 2027 to be put toward an altar renovation.

Michael noted that despite potential heavy rains from El Nino, recent roof work should keep the building in good shape against potential flooding.

Banner Project Progress

Lucy provided an update on the banner project workshops, noting they have successfully held a screening and initial drawing exercises. A challenge was identified regarding low attendance on Monday nights due to scheduling conflicts with working parishioners. To increase engagement, they suggested hosting casual Sunday collage hours or creating forums where people can share opinions without attending full workshops.

Welcome and Hospitality updates

The In-Gathering brunch is scheduled for Nov. 8; volunteer needs were discussed. The Halloween Party and baptisms for All Saint's Sunday were also mentioned.

Consent Agenda

The Vestry approved previous minutes.

Following compline and prayer concerns the meeting was adjourned at 7:35.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah McCarter, vestry clerk