

Trinity Vestry Meeting Minutes

Meeting Details

Date: September 24, 2025

Location: Guild Hall, Trinity

Attendees

- Elizabeth Molitors
- Sarah Thomas
- Georgia Noble
- Susan Zink
- Keith Cobell
- Sarah McCarter
- Michael Arnold
- Jean Lange-Davis
- Alex Thompson
- Mark Ismond
- Susan Kruttsch
- Jay Casbon
- Fred Williams
- Ellen Whittet
- Michelle Petty

The meeting commenced at 6:20 PM, following dinner and a devotional.

With no additional items added to the agenda, Ellen Whittet made a motion to approve both the minutes and the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mark Ismond, and the approval was unanimous.

Keith began the meeting informing the vestry that our investments remain solid, on average seeing a return of 6 - 7% annually with the Living Beyond Ourselves Fund seeing even better returns. He discussed the diversification of our income which is not just from pledges. There has been a boost in loose plate offerings and an increase in space rental and fundraisers.

Elizabeth pointed out that the financials showed some more detailed contract services regarding capital projects, (including elevator repairs and ironwork), than are normally included.

A member asked about landscape improvements and Elizabeth explained that this will be addressed in 2026.

Michael Arnold suggested that we have a conversation about Trinity's investment strategy and the goal of accumulating funds verses spending them. A conversation ensued about increasing the draw from our investment funds, (which is currently 3 & ½%), and the potential for using those funds for ministry growth, including more staffing and salary increases. It was decided that there needs to be further conversation about Trinity's budget philosophy in the hopes that we can balance investment goals with mission delivery.

Georgia brought up the success of the leadership retreat, highlighting the positive feedback from participants and the value of the "crucial conversation" training.

Sarah Thomas spoke on behalf of the JOC regarding placing "Sacred Resistance" signs on church doors to show solidarity with immigrants and opposition to enforcement actions. Considering the risk of potential vandalism, it was decided that the signs will be placed on stands outside the entrance doors during Sunday services only. Michael Arnold made a motion to approve the placement of the signs. The motion was seconded by Fred Williams, followed by unanimous approval.

Elizabeth announced of upcoming events including the blessing of the animals, the Trinity Backstage fundraiser and the annual kickoff dinner. January 10, 2026, will be held as a date for a special vestry session, in case of significant budget discrepancies.

An update was provided regarding the vestry nominating committee, mentioning the departure of Susan Zink and Mark Ismond and the search for 3 new vestry members. Ellen Whittet is finishing a one-year term and has agreed to stay for another 3 years.

A motion to approve the minutes and financials as well as receive the reports was made by Alex Thompson, seconded by Jay Casbon and followed with unanimous approval of the vestry.

Next executive committee meeting is October 21, Vestry meeting will be on October 29.

Following compline, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25

Submitted by Sarah McCarter, Vestry Clerk