

Trinity Vestry Meeting Minutes

Vestry Meeting

Sept. 23, 2026/Guild Hall

Present: Elizabeth Molitors, Sarah Thomas, Brian Bargiel, Michael Neal Arnold, Sarah McCarter, Jean Lange-Davis, Alex Thomas, Jay Casbon, Ellen Whittet, Lucy Bell, Clare Carey-Pesani, Carol Ann Manzi, Michelle Petty, Jay Casbon

Absent: Keith Cobell, Claude Garciecelay

The meeting was called to order at 6:13, following dinner and a devotional.

Agenda Approval and Financial Overview

Brian Bargiel made a motion to approve the minutes and agenda, seconded by Jean Davis and followed by unanimous vestry approval.

Annual giving and 2027 draft budget discussions centered on increasing the budget from \$1.1 million to \$1.2 million. Elizabeth, speaking on behalf of the treasurer, noted that while August ran a deficit due to seasonal giving trends and billing errors, Trinity's overall financial position remains strong. The proposed budget includes a 3% cost of living adjustment, (COLA), and a 1.5% merit increase for staff. She also proposed increasing the Justice and Outreach funding from 5% to 6% of pledge income.

Insurance Approvals: The vestry voted to maintain current medical and dental coverage levels: PPO 90 for regular medical and Medicare eligible plans, and basic level dental insurance. Theo Patterson will be added to the health insurance plan in 2027 after turning 26.

Buildings and Grounds Update

Michael presented the final plan for stained glass window restoration. This project is to include the Tiffany window on the front of the church, the four windows on the Micheltorena side as well as Lexan protectant for windows in wooden doors that lead into the parish hall. The total cost will be \$140,430 and will be contracted by the Judson Company in Pasadena. It was deemed necessary to begin this project as soon as possible as the windows are in very poor condition.

The vestry unanimously approved a motion to authorize the project using "creative financing", where funds are drawn from reserves now and reimbursed

over the next several years from the buildings and grounds budget. There was lengthy discussion about other projects that may need attention, but the windows are in dire need of repair, and the possibility exists that they could fail during big storms which are expected this year. This does not preclude other projects being taken on but it's believed to be the highest priority in terms of the structural integrity of the building.

Banner Project

Lucy provided an update on the banner project noting that a strong curatorial committee including Dane Goodman, Georgia Noble, Casey Caldwell, and Anne Howard is managing the transition. The first official events, a screening and workshop, are scheduled for October 19 and 26. There was discussion about timing for removing the existing banners; this could possibly happen around Lent to coincide with the "bare bones" aesthetic of the sanctuary.

Strategic Development

Brian reported on the progress of the money narrative and the development of a strategic filter following the leadership retreat run by the Vandersall Company. A small working group consisting of Ellen, Brian, Esau, Michael, and Elizabeth is refining core values to produce a final document. The group aims to move toward more proactive community care rather than purely re-active spending.

Upcoming Events

Annual giving kickoff dinner is scheduled for October 10.

Formal in-gathering of pledge cards will take place November 8.

Executive committee meeting: October 20

Vestry meeting: October 28

Alex Thomas moved to approve minutes, financials and reports. The motion was seconded by Lucy Bell followed by unanimous vestry approval.

Following prayer concerns and compline, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25

Submitted by Sarah McCarter, vestry clerk