

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

St. James' Parish, Waimea, Hawai'i Island

Monday, August 31, 2026, 12 PM in St. James' Church

Present: Terri Greenwell, Colleen Norris, Katie Fendel, Harry Morley, Donna Brown, Pat Anderson, Melanie Rufo, Hans L'Orange, David Stout, Ian Hersey

Excused: Marnie Keator, Michael Thompson, Linda Lundgren

David called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM and began with an Exercise of Focus and Opening Prayer. In thinking of the Gospel read in church yesterday (Matthew 16:21-28), and Queen Liliuokalani's quote "to gain the kingdom of heaven is to hear what is not said and to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable, that is aloha." Vestry was asked, "What do you hear? What may the Holy Spirit be wanting us to know? How do we live out that faith? The vestry shared their thoughts including: 1) To have faith, don't give up; 2) to go deep within yourself; 3) a taste of heaven; 4) You have to accept that some things cannot be known until it is time, and sometimes I have to remind myself that it is not time. It's almost like how you can explain the word Aloha. "Life Is So Good."

The minutes from the July 20 Vestry meeting were then presented. David thanked Colleen, our bookkeeper for being here with us as Michael is out of town. Terri motioned to approve. Seconded by Katie. Motion carries unanimously.

Worship & Sacraments were then discussed. David commended to the Vestry's attention the following:

- Nora Richard entered into Glory on Friday, July 10th, a funeral was held at St. James' on Monday, August 10 at 10 AM.
- Long-time Thrift Store volunteer Sylvia Castioni entered into Glory on Thursday, July 9th, her celebration of life was Sunday, August 23 at Anna Ranch.
- Parishioners Bryan Hao and Stephen Brussels will be married at the Mauna Lani Resort on Sunday, September 6. David officiating.
- On Saturday and Sunday, July 25 & 26, we celebrated the namesake of our Waimea congregation as we kept the feast of St. James. Following the 9:30 AM service at St. James', processed as a congregation to the West Campus (formally the Chock property) where we blessed the historic plaque honoring the stewardship of the Chock 'ohana. Folks were given the opportunity to walk through the front (Chock Inn) building and others that are safe to do so. Mahalo to the West Campus Team and all who made it a great day!
- The ordination of Cathy McPherson-Tamos took place on Saturday, August 29th at 10 AM at St. Columba's. Mahalo to all, especially our St. Columba's congregation.

In the area of Outreach, Fellowship, and Youth & 'Ohana Ministries, a special thank you was offered to Laura Williams for her leadership and oversight of our Godly Play ministry. Laura and the Godly Play ministry team decided to continue to offer the ministry through the summer months. Laura is also coordinating a Godly Play leader training the weekend of September 25-27. We have been in contact with other churches to invite them. Jenny Wallace will be coming to Island to lead the training. Laura is actively recruiting additional folks to be trained in the ministry of a storyteller and door person.

David shared an update on the Keiki Youth Ministries Coordinator position. Laura is happy to step into the role as a volunteer. David would like to wait until Linda comes back to regroup and discuss going forward with the position.

With regards to the scholarship applications, the Scholarship Review Committee review consists of Hans L'Orange, Josh Anthony (Youth Pastor) and Kristel Kunishige. We have received 8 applications. The committee will be making their decision shortly. Vestry thanked Katie for her Mom's generous donation to the scholarship fund. Katie shared that before her mom entered into Glory, Nora shared that "I'd love it if someone could be in nursing school, but they could also be first responders too" Motion made by Terri to delegate to the scholarship committee the decisions for allocation, seconded by Donna. Motion carries unanimously. The Episcopal Pacific Youth Conference was held on O'ahu July 28-31, 2 youth, 1 chaperone and Josh Anthony attended. St. Columba's Wednesday Aloha Hour began on Wednesday, August 14, the Youth Group at St. James' has been moved to Tuesdays from 3-7 PM

In the area of Fellowship, we are looking at a Beach Mass sunset gathering; David noted the club got hit hard with damage from the hurricanes.

For Thrift Store & Bookstore Ministries, Frankie's old container is being moved beside the other containers at the Thrift Store. Frankie moved the Sexton's workshop to the West Campus warehouse.

Community Meal Ministries, the St. Columba's community meal resumed Tuesday, August 11. It was a great night back! Next meal is Tuesday, September 15th (note the date change). St. James' community meal. Mahalo to Big Island Tents for taking down and putting the tent back up because of Hurricane Lala. The current tent may not last until the Gathering Place is built. Mahalo to Colleen for all she did to help facilitate not only the tent being taken down but also working with Big Island Tents to create a contract for doing so as needed in the future. We would like to thank BI Tents by offering a meal in thanksgiving for their help. Follow up is needed to find a date.

For Adult Spiritual Formation, Episcopal monk and friend of our parish, Brother David Vryhof, will be in residence September 22 - October 7. We are looking into Br. David leading a workshop/gathering, as well as preaching the weekend of October 3 & 4. Mahalo to Steve Kittell and Dara Pond for providing their 'ohana. David and Bobby are loaning him the use of their car. Brother David coming is an unexpected blessing as he reached out to us to ask if he might come. We are partnering with the Rev. Bill Heron and St. Clement's Church, O'ahu, in splitting Br. David's time in the Islands.

The Rev. Canon Lou Blanchard returns September 22 - 27 to continue work with us on vision and mission during times of growth, change and transition. Mahalo to Rick and Katie Fendel for providing their 'ohana. David and Bobby will provide their other car for Lou and her husband, Ted, to use while with us.

Wednesday Men's Bible Study continues. Friday Women's Bible Study continues. Cissy Levins is going to be leading during Marnie's recovery from surgery. Prayer Ministry led by Aimee Love and Monica Newcomb to be meeting in cottage on West Campus on Tuesdays at 7 AM. Aimee has presented David with other possible prayer opportunities, including a four-week gathering on prayer.

For Newcomer & Evangelism, moving forward with Parish Mission statement. David is in conversation with the Rev. Canon Lou Blanchard, looking at a possible date for her to return to lead the parish and/or vestry in a follow-up retreat to her time being with us this past May. New Member Welcome Weekend was held at St. James and the Beach Mass, July 25 & 26. We welcomed Chandra & Drew Ramirez, Erin Keapproth, Maria Wagner, Jim Allison

Regarding the Gathering Place, weekly construction updates continue to be shared in the newsletter and insert. A question was asked why the tent expenses being charged to the Gathering

Place? Discussion ensued. It was suggested that we start looking at a backup option for the tent. The West Campus immediate blessing would be to allow us to breathe while the construction of The Gathering Place is happening. The Community Meal should pay for the heavier duty stakes. The other thing regarding the West Campus former restaurant space is that it would take a lot to bring it up to Department of Health standards. We could use it for seating, but not for anything else. The development of a contingency plan to use the West Campus for service for the Community Meal was delegated to the West Campus Transition Team.

West Campus Transition Team Report was offered by Harry, Ian, Donna, and Katie. Regarding the requested review of Daron Hoffman's contract by Katie, Harry shared that Katie and he had met. Both shared that the questions were answered and that in talking with Daron after he met with the West Campus committee, he was going to interview a contractor regarding painting the front of the building. Harry would also like to remove the side building that has been burned, and the front of the fruit stand. The roof also needs to be replaced. Harry also made clear that there is funding for all of this. Katie shared that one of the committee's guiding principles is safety, including fumigation and making it insurable. A question was asked why the Sunday AA morning meeting hasn't moved in yet. It should start this next week.

A conversation then ensued about the use of the building going forward. The vestry then discussed if the Chock Inn building could be used to house the weekly Community Meal if the tent became unusable. David asked the West Campus Transition Committee to provide a timeline for when the Community Meal could start using the space should they need to.

Terri Greenwell shared that Chris Hawkins of the Resilience Hub has requested to store a container filled with cots from the hotels to be stored on the West Campus. In case of a natural disaster, it would be beneficial to have the cots in Waimea instead of the hotels. West Campus Transition Committee to address.

Denise Ray is also going to be joining the West Campus committee to talk about design issues/needs. The vestry expressed its deep appreciation, on behalf of the entire parish to Harry Morley, for his recently made incredibly generous donation \$100,000 to the West Campus expenses. The monies will be used to continue to fund Daron's position and now his assistant, Carter's position.

Colleen shared the financials & Treasurer's Report in Michael's absence. The checking account balance was very low in August. There is a reluctance to pull money out of the TECH fund because it is doing so well in the stock market. After the hurricane and not having internet, we were given overdraft charges and shifted funds over from the Gathering Place account. Part of the explanation for the overdraft we had no electrical power in the aftermath of Hurricane Lala, and thus we had no collection from church service and the thrift and bookstore ministries were closed. However, thankfully, we are in good shape now.

At next month's meeting we will be discussing the 2027 budget. Colleen shared in preparation for the review of the draft 2027 budget, note there will be a 2% placeholder for staff wages, a placeholder estimate for the diocesan assessment, an increase in budget for outside auditors, Keiki Ministry coordinator position, the Gathering Place construction; owner's rep will be 10 months instead of 9. QBI is coming in lower; after-school food budget is increasing; food pantry budget is included in that for St. C's; rental income; TS dumpster pickup has been increased. West Campus operating expenses will be put in there for electricity, water, internet, security, and mowing without generating revenue anymore. The Stewardship campaign- October 14/15-November 16 this year's chairs are Gerrit Keator and Richard Barnes.

Hans offered his Sr. Warden's report by sharing that he has decided to run for a 4-year term as a Standing Committee (the Bishop's Vestry).

Ian offered his Jr. Warden's report by updating the Vestry on the St. Columba's Vicarage.

- We are looking into the needs for Linda and Bob's return. Ian shared that work has been done on the property to make the vicarage more accessible for Bob. Handrails for long stairwell up the vicarage is no longer wobbly. Sturdy handrail on one side is done; the second one is done for the house entrance and that long staircase. Linda has said that no ramp is needed. The other railings will be done. Gary is working on installing handholds in the vicarage bathroom.
- Some of the new cameras for West Campus are on back order. We have to fix the internet situation on the campus. Spectrum routers won't allow for port forwarding. HawaiianTel hasn't responded to our last query. Goal is a campus wide service all in one. Ian is continuing to work on the internet connectivity issue.

David offered the St. James' Associate Rector's Report by sharing that Marnie's hip replacement surgery is scheduled for today! Prayers.

David offered the St. Columba's Report. He updated the vestry on Linda and Bob's return. Everything is on target for them to be back the first weekend in October.

Mahalo to Chaplain Gary Snyder! What a blessing he has been to be with us. All agreed that he would make a great Episcopal Priest! Gary came the first of June. His last Sunday will be September 27. Discussion ensued regarding mahalo gift. Gary paid for his airfare, and then again for his need to go back for a funeral, and he isn't turning in mileage; June, July, August, and September have not cost the church not a cent. At the very least, a plane ticket home and making sure that is covered.

For his Rector's Report, David shared that the Diocesan Clergy Conference was held August 24-26 on Kaua'i. David attended.

The Diocesan Education Day and Convention will be held October 16 & 17. Our delegates are Hans L'Orange, Harry Morley, Aimee Love and Melanie Rufo. The Ordination and Consecration of the Rev. Libby Berman as our diocesan bishop, Saturday, November 14th, on O'ahu. Clergy and Wardens will be asked to attend.

Bobby is navigating his options for spinal surgery in San Francisco. He is looking at September 18. More information as this unfolds. Prayers are appreciated.

David would like to invite Bishop Gillies back this November to help with the advent study/teaching as well as preaching and such. +Bob is only asking for cost of travel. David for such "out of budget" needs, he will use gifts he is personally given such as for weddings, etc. David doesn't keep for himself monetary gifts but asks the giver if he may use it for a need over the next year that are outside of the approved budget. They can use David and Bobby's car while here. But they will need accommodations. The dates of their travel is November 15 until the first of the year. David is exploring options of folks that may be willing to allow the Gillies to be in their home when they are away. The Gillies will also happily pet sit. So, keep your ears open.

Next Meeting will be held on Monday, September 28 at 12 PM in the church.

Vestry then shared the Concluding Prayer: O God our protector, by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light: We give into your hands the decisions we have made,

the dreams we are shaping and our unfinished tasks; you alone are our sure defense and bring us lasting peace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

At 1:46 PM Hans motioned to adjourn and & Terri seconded. Motion carried unanimously.