VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
St. James' Parish, Waimea, Hawai'i Island
Monday, September 28, 2026, 12 PM in St. James' Church
Present: David Stout+, Ian Hersey, Jeannie Savage, Katie Fendel, Terri Greenwell, Harry Morley, Melanie Rufo, Michael Thompson, Pat Anderson, Donna Brown, Tim Bostock, Hans L'Orange,
Excused: The Revs. Marnie Keator and Linda Lundgren

Exercise of Focus & Opening Prayer—David called the meeting to order at 12:03 PM with an Exercise of Focus and Opening Prayer. We thanked the Rev. Lou Blanchard and Brother David Vryhof for all their help this past week. Lou spoke about sacred authority and shared ministry. Jesus' authority came from the Spirit resting on him. David asked the Vestry, "Where might God be asking us to widen the circle of ministry?" Discussion ensued. David then asked Vestry "As you look around this room and you see the gifts of each person, how do you see someone else at this table? What is their particular gift of sacred authority that you want to affirm in someone else?" Discussion ensued:

- Hans is awesome at communication. He is a great non-anxious presence.
- Terri has institutional knowledge.
- Katie is straightforward in her speaking and very bright.
- Ian needs to keep bringing his solutions to problems and being consistently calm, cool, collected, and open-minded.
- Donna is sympathetic, open, easy to talk to, and organized, the "keeper taker" with a backbone made of steel.
- Pat's honesty is so valued, and she does an incredible job of representing St. Columba's needs.
- Michael's honesty, knowledge of investments, and willingness to sit down with the Vestry members on how to read spreadsheets, and his wonderful ministry with the keiki.
- Mel's willingness to ask questions.
- The generosity and entrepreneurial spirit of Harry, to will and to work for God's pleasure

David then welcomed Jeannie Savage and Tim Bostock from the Community Meal to the meeting.

The Minutes from August 31 Vestry meeting were then presented. Terri moved to approve; Katie seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

Worship and sacraments were then discussed with the below commended to Vestry's attention:

a) We canceled Beach Mass this past Saturday because of the post-Hurricane windy conditions.
b) Mahalo to the Rev. Andrew Arakawa for preaching and celebrating Sunday, September 20, and to the Rev. Brian McGurk for preaching and celebrating Saturday, September 19th.
c) Other special and upcoming services to note:
    - Baptism of Allison Bedow at this coming Wednesday's Noon Eucharist.
    - This coming weekend, Blessing of the Animals. Br. David preaching at Beach Mass and St. James'.
    - Parishioner Chuck Brink's funeral service is this weekend in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Chuck's wife, Janey, will be holding a memorial service on island in December.
    - This Sunday, is the Hospice Floating Lantern Ceremony. David offering the pule.
    - Ironman is Saturday, October 10th. Beach Mass will still be offered as roads are normally open by 4 PM.
    - Linda & Reggie Lindsey service of committal and paddle out at Kawaihae will be held Friday, October 23. David officiating.
    - Pat Rice's memorial service will be held at Davies Chapel on Saturday, December 12. David offering the opening pule and closing committal and blessing.

In the area of Keiki, Youth, & 'Ohana Ministries, the Godly Play leader training with Jenny Wallace postponed due to the hurricane. Looking at possibly holding in November. St. Columba's Wednesday Aloha Hour continues. Youth Group at St. James' continues on Tuesday afternoons.

Regarding Thrift Store & Bookstore Ministries, Rona Scull has announced that she will be retiring at the end of 2027. As that date approaches, Vestry will need to consider that position moving forward. We can't start talking about this in Fall of 2027; we need to be able to give these decisions the time they deserve.

Jeannie Savage and Tim Bostock presented the following report for the Community Meals Ministry: Big Island Tents is jammed because of the upcoming Ironman and other events. We are prepared to offer drive through. Frankie and Tim have a small team to observe how they put it up. Tim then shared the Meal Report, sharing that we will be under budget for the year. The Meal will need financial support in 2027. Grant target is $75K for next year. Tim shared that the Meal ministry has not needed church funds for quite some time, but this year they are looking for support. Expenditures are increasing. Vestry is asked to allocate $60K to the Community Meal for 2027 in the parish budget. Discussion ensued.

In the area of Adult Spiritual Formation, Episcopal monk and friend of our parish, Brother David Vryhof, is in residence until October 7. Br. David preached and celebrated this past weekend at St. Columba's. He will be preaching the weekend of October 3 & 4 at St. James'. Br David assisted with the morning retreat at St. James' this past Saturday. He will be meeting with our prayer team ministry this Tuesday morning and the Waimea youth group in the afternoon. Mahalo to Steve Kittell and Dara Pond for their generous hospitality in providing their 'ohana for Br. David to stay in while here. 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 asked if he may 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 returned and was with us September 22 - 27. She continued work with us on vision and mission during times of growth and expansion, which now included knowledge of David's retirement. Mahalo, Lou, for leading us in our discussion at the morning retreat. She also met separately with both vestry and staff. Mahalo to Rick and Katie Fendel for providing their 'ohana. David and Bobby provided their other car for Lou and her husband, Ted, to use while with us.

Wednesday Men's Bible Study continues. Mahalo to Bishop Bob Gillies for leading the offering while David and Bobby were away for Bobby's surgery. Friday Women's Bible Study continues. Mahalo to Cissy Levins for leading. Prayer Ministry led by Aimee Love and Monica Newcomb will meet in the cottage on West Campus on Tuesdays at 7 AM.

David reported that we are moving forward with Parish Mission statement. We need to finalize and send it out to the parish, as we continue to live with the possibilities. The statement is gravitating toward some version of: "Living God's Aloha: Sharing God's Love, Building Community, and Serving others."

Regarding the Gathering Place, weekly construction updates continue to be shared in the newsletter and insert. We are on track for spending; construction is 4 weeks behind mainly because of the storms and rain. This has pushed to a finish date of September 2027. Tim reported that we are moving ahead well with subs; our solar install people don't want to work with the solar that we bought. Currently looking for a new installer. We still have $250K contingency we haven't spent and another $50K we have saved so far in costs.

Regarding the West Campus Transition, Harry, Ian, Donna, Katie presented and addressed the burnt out building. Ian moved that the building be torn down, seconded by Katie, motion carries unanimously. Harry is concerned that we aren't communicating what is going on with the West Campus on a weekly basis. We need someone to take photos of what is happening this week on the West Campus; Melanie Rufo volunteered to be the "West Campus Reporter."

Vesty then reviewed the paint colors of the front building on West Campus, the Inn Chock store, for approval. The ladies' bathroom and trim were approved. Vestry would like to see the Gathering Place colors. Katie moved that we have a choice to review at the next meeting. The paint colors will need to wait until October 28th. Thank you,

Denise, for all your hard work! The front restaurant building has been power washed. Floors being completed are a priority. The main floor is being redone. Tim needs two points of contact for the Trinity Grant application. Donna and Harry to work with Martha.

Michael then presented the Finance & Treasurer's Report and Vestry reviewed a draft of the 2027 budget. It was explained that the budget is broken out into major categories of our life together and Michael highlighted areas to pay particular attention to. Tech fund earnings were projected. Hans suggested that we draw from the Tech fund when it is over a million. A question was asked, will pledge income be affected by David's retirement? We may make it through the interim without there being a drop. The 2027 draft budget has an $88K projected deficit, $60K of which is the Parish's commitment to support the Community Meal, which could be offset by the Tech Fund. Thank you to Colleen and Michael for their hard work!

Regarding the 2027 Stewardship campaign. There is a Gratitude Committee meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, 4 PM in the back of the Spencer Building. Campaign starts the weekend of October 17 and concludes November 14.

Hans then presented his Sr. Warden's Report. He shared that David's last Sunday will be January 3. Lou Blanchard has given us a great road map. Hans will share the documents with Katie and Pat as they were not able to attend the meeting with Lou. Hans spoke about the Sacred Authority in all of the Parish. He then reminded vestry that we will need 2 candidates to serve in the ministry of a vestry member, as Melanie Rufo and Katie Fendel will be completed their terms. When you have suggestions for vestry names, please send them to Hans. On December 1, the nomination forms will be included in the newsletter. The vestry will be choosing the next rector. The Search Committee will present the candidates to vestry, and then vestry will vote. It is appropriate to have 1 or 2 vestry members on the search committee. The vestry will manage and handle finances that David as Rector oversees. The Interim Priest is responsible for preaching teaching, and the sacramental and pastoral care of the parish. Vestry is always responsible for the care and upkeep of our buildings, but in the absence of a rector, the vestry and specifically, the Senior Warden has charge over care of the parish staff. The Sr. Warden is typically appointed by the Rector; Bishop-elect Libby decided that Hans would continue. A recurring theme from Hans, Lou, Libby, and Bishop Bob is that we are strong, healthy, and will be okay. The bishop becomes the rector in the absence of a rector.

Ian then presented his Jr. Warden's Report. Ian has agreed to submit his name for consideration to serve another year as Jr. Warden. Regarding St. Columba's Vicarage, Ian reported on the upgrades for Linda and Bob's return. St. James' Circle and West Campus's security system update was presented: Router plus 8 satellites have arrived and will run in parallel with the existing system. There is also a proposal for a new camera system in the system.

David reported on St. Columba's. Chaplain Gary Snyder's last Sunday was yesterday and his time was celebrated with great joy. Gary was with us the past four months. We are grateful to him and to all who help navigate our life and ministry together. Linda and Bob return tomorrow, Tuesday, September 29th. We welcome them home with much joy and gladness!

David then offered his Rector's Report. The Diocesan Education Day and Convention, 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. Wardens and clergy are asked to attend. And then there is the discussion of that darn announcement the rector made about retiring! God Bless You David. David shared that when a rector leaves a parish he/she must give time for the new priest to establish their pastoral ministry. That means that David will not be able to be involved for a while. This is at least a year after the new rector has arrived. After further discussion, Terri lovingly reminded us all that "We are a gathered community of ministers, not a community gathered around a minister."

Vestry then entered into Executive Session at 2:50 PM
Vestry exited Executive Session at 3:21 PM

Next Meeting: Monday, October 26 at 12 PM in the church

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 3:22 PM Hans motioned to Adjourn. Seconded by Terri at 3:22 PM