

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

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

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 2 PM

Present: Hans L'Orange (Sr. Warden), Donna Brown (Guest), Terri Greenwell, Marnie Keator+, Linda Lundgren+, Pati Jaegar (Guest), Harry Morley, Katie Fendel, Pat Anderson, Jackie Minto, Ian Hersey (Jr. Warden), Michael Thompson (Treasurer), Mel Pobre (Guest), Richard Lewis (Guest), Melanie Rufo, Tim Bostock (Guest).

Excused: David Stout+

Hans called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM and began with a Prayer for our Gathering asked everyone to introduce ourselves, sharing "which in itself is an exercise of focus in that it is a confirmation of who we are."

The minutes from December 16 and January 5 called meeting were presented. Harry motioned to accept the minutes from the December 16 meeting, seconded by Terri. Motion carries unanimously. Terri motioned to accept the January 6 called meeting minutes with changes. Seconded by Harry. Motion carries unanimously.

Worship & Sacraments were then reviewed:

- a) Weddings:
 1. Jeremy Noller & Katherine Schmitt. Saturday, February 14th, 3:15 PM in Puako. David is officiating.
- b) Deaths and Funeral services.
 1. Sam Gingrich entered into Glory on Saturday, November 8th. Funeral was held Tuesday, January 6th at 4:30 PM at Kahilu Town Hall
 2. Joanne Coon entered into Glory on Thursday, January 8th. Internment to be held Friday, February 13 at 10 AM, funeral to be held on Saturday, February 14 at 10 AM at St. James'
- c) Baptisms
 1. Marion May, daughter of Astrid & Chris Caruso was baptized at Beach Mass on January 10 (Feast of the Baptism of our Lord)
- d) Other special and upcoming services to note:
 1. Jan 24 & 25, Bishop's visitation to Beach Mass & St. James'. The 9:30 AM service will include confirmations & receptions and the Beach Mass will include a baptism of Lew and Pat Chartrand's grandchild.
 2. Feb 14, 5 PM Beach Mass to include Renewal of Marriage Vows.
 3. Feb 18, Ash Wednesday:
 - o 7-9 AM Distribution of ashes at St. James' Church.
 - o 7-8 AM Distribution of ashes at Kawaihae Small Boat Harbor (in front of KCC).
 - o Noon Eucharist at St. James'.
 - o 5 PM Eucharist at St. Columba's.

In the area of Outreach, Fellowship, and Youth & ‘Ohana Ministries, Vestry discussed the Christmas Bazaar proceeds allocation. This year, a post-pandemic record was raised of \$17,317.17 (after credit card/Venmo fees were subtracted). Hans motioned to allocate \$5,772.39 equally to each of our three recipients: St. James’ Community Meal, Annunciation Food Pantry, and Hawaii Island Humane Society (earmarked for Community Pet Pantry), Katie seconded. Motion carries unanimously. Vestry extended a sincere Mahalo to Jeanne Cooper, Melissa Levitan, Linda Rodrigues, and Pattie Kim and all the volunteers for their hard work in making this year’s bazaar a success.

Vestry then discussed Keiki, Youth, & ‘Ohana Ministries; the St. Columba’s After School Aloha Hour has restarted, the next Teen Tech will be held on Sunday, February 8 from 10:30 AM-12 PM in the back of Spencer Building. In the area of the Junior & Senior High Youth Ministry, “Youth on Sundays” worship service is going well. Mahalo to Youth Pastor Josh, Deacon Cathy, John Stover, and Kristel and Alex Kunishige.

In the area of fellowship, the Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Supper will be held on February 17th at St. Columba’s along with the Honoka’a Jazz Band.

The Thrift Store & Bookstore Ministries are going well!

For the Community Meal Ministries, the meal is chicken enchiladas this week at St. James’ and the next St. Columba’s Community Meal is Tuesday, February 10. The Community Meals team will also be preparing the main dish for the Annual Meeting this Sunday.

In the area of Adult Spiritual Formation, the Confirmation/Newcomer/Inquirer’s Class concluded this past Sunday. Mahalo to Cathy for leading and Marnie for assisting. Marnie shared that there would be (1) confirmant, (1) affirmation and (1) reconfirmation. The Monday’s Bible Study at St. C’s is on hiatus until Lent, Wednesday Men’s Bible Study has restarted as has the Friday Women’s Bible Study. The Prayer Ministry led by Aimee Love and Monica Newcomb will be meeting in St. James’ church on Tuesdays at 7 AM. Anyone who is interested should contact them via the Parish Office

For the 2026 Lenten program: The Right Rev. (Bishop) Gillies and Liz to be in residence February 1-March 29, to lead our Lenten Program at St. Columba’s & St. James’. He is still fleshing out his teaching. Working title of “All Shall Be Well”--looking at themes of reconciliation and redemption as God’s love is extended to those on the margins of society and for those of us who feel or who have been placed on the margins. +Bob will focus on particular individuals and their contexts in John’s Gospel to help us reflect upon our needs and personal journeys in faith--or even, back to faith. Rick & Katie are providing housing from Feb 1 - Feb 15. Melissa Levitan is helping with exploring an additional house. Need housing for the last two weeks in Feb and the four weeks in March. Ideally, we are looking for a housesitting/pet sitting opportunity or an ‘ohana. A suggestion was made that a cottage on the Chock property could be an option. Donna offered her place, Katie could maybe do three weeks in the beginning, and Harry offered his place as well. They will use David and Bobby’s car.

In the area of Newcomer & Evangelism, welcome new members weekend is set for Saturday & Sunday, February 7 & 8.

Michael then shared the Finance & Treasurer's Report. On the income statement, the budget-to-actual shows the income for the year has been amazing! The Thrift Store continues to amaze year after year. It is a testament to everyone's hard work, to the generosity of our congregation, to the hard work of our staff in watching expenses, it's an incredible result! This is close, if not the exact statement, we will present at the Annual Meeting. A question about the increase in income pledge was asked by Hans. Is this from an increase in their pledge amount from existing pledgers or from new pledgers. Michael believes it is both and includes the mid-year pledge dive. Hans then thanked Donna for the GREAT job with the narrative budget. It is a really great addition to the annual report that was discussed on Sunday. We expect it to be a separate document, available throughout the year, for newcomers or anyone curious. Michael is very grateful that we have that information now. Hans then shared thank you notes to the Vestry

Richard Lewis then updated the Vestry on the Tom Robertson Estate and shared that there should be a distribution of approximately \$1Mil within the next couple of weeks. Michael Thompson, and Richard have been spending a lot of time together preparing for the estate's taxes with Tom's old accounting firm. He said they will be able to make very significant distributions in the very near future. He had a bit of trouble communicating with the accounting firm prior to a week ago and has found a great senior accountant in the firm to prepare the taxes, which is the last task he has to perform. There is a potential tax liability for 2024 and 2025. We should be able to distribute about a million fairly soon, within the next three weeks (at the latest). Hans then clarified for Vestry that Richard is enabling the money to flow to St. James', and St. James' then decides how that money is used. Michael pointed out that Richard and Michael met with an attorney last week; it is reasonable to expect minimal tax liabilities and he doesn't see it as a major obstacle to the funding. The other outstanding item is the capital gains estimate but that should be small. The house was sold in 2025; he died in the middle of 2024. The closing of the Chock property is scheduled for 2/17/2026. Bill Jardine and Terrill Chock have been trying to connect. There was talk about extending the closing to give the squatters more time; we can't legally take ownership until that is done and we believe Terrill wants the cash sooner rather than later. There remains some potential flux in the timing. Hans read Bill Jardine's email message to Vestry regarding the legalities of closing deadlines. Hans clarified for Vestry that legally, we cannot take possession until the squatters are out. We believe as we get close to the 17th, Rona Scull can give them a heads-up. Hans shared that Stephen Kerr said that Habitat might be interested in leasing the space from us. Katie thinks it would be wonderful to work with Habitat, "just think of the headlines," and we would need to make sure that wouldn't preclude any plans we have in store for the future. Stephen also has a connection with the individual who managed the property for Habitat.

Ian then updated the Vestry- 1) there is no way we are going to close early without the homeless problem having been addressed by Terrill. The family are the ones who let it happen in the first place. We can't do it under pure possession, because that could be disputed. 2) Ian asked Michael about the Chock funds, "are we financially ready to close?" Michael said that we are still awaiting funds from Tom's estate, \$1,350 MIL. We have \$1,650,000 in escrow, and we need \$1,350,000 to close. We might need to loan ourselves \$350,000, but Michael seems to think that we will get the full \$1,350,000. Vestry may need to authorize a loan from another source, such as The Gathering Place or the TECH fund. Richard feels comfortable with 1 MIL in hand. Michael shared that what is remaining in the estate is more than \$1.350,000, so it's likely that we would have enough to close. Whatever might be left in the estate after taxes would be remitted to St. James' for other purposes.

Ian then provided Vestry with an update on campus security by sharing that he, Frankie and Jaisy met with Alert Alarm and went over the entire campus for line-of-sight cameras. We haven't gotten a formal quote.

Ian then moved into his Jr. Warden's Report and provided Vestry with an update on the Gathering Place and St. Columba's window. Ian went to the Cathedral today and met with the St. C's window guy, and shared that it has been magnificently restored; it is stunning! William is at St. C's doing the prep work for the wall outside of the alcove. Ian had a call with both Gathering Place potential contractors and shared our appreciation for the work that they put in, that there was a difference in quotes and money and time, that we have other projects coming up and that we would love to give them opportunities in the future. Hans then read the email from Paul Donoho updating the Vestry. It was also noted that Quality Builder's bid did NOT include that \$617,000 for the paving bricks. Dan Akau has offered to assist with cesspool to septic conversions and suggested that he might be able to find other ways to help out.

Hans then offered his Sr. Warden's Report which included a request from Waimea Country School for a special event liquor request for the annual fundraising event on Saturday, February 21, 2026. A copy of last year's letter is attached. Vestry agreed to draw up a formal letter similar to last year's to allow for the serving of alcohol on their premises for their fundraising event. Vestry was clear in their expectation that the mixology class be offered in the WCS building only. As for the space inside the church and possibly thrift store lanai for class use, Vestry was happy to offer the use for that space, provided there is no alcohol being served at those classes but that the church kitchen will not be available for use that evening, and they felt it would be more appropriate for Ippy to use his certified kitchen for the preparation of the meal.

Hans then provided Vestry with an update on the Delegates to Convention. -St James' has been allotted (4) delegates instead of (5) as we had previously thought. 2 delegates for the first 100 and 1 for each additional communicant or fraction thereof. So $2+1+1=4$. The formula changed effectively this year. Based on the 2024 Parochial Report, in which St. James' reported 241 communicants in good standing. Nomination form Delegate Description and duties: "A delegate attends and represents his/her parish at the Diocesan Convention, which is scheduled to convene on October 16 & 17, 2026, at 'Iolani School. Delegates are expected to attend the Education Day, the whole day of the Convention, and vote on amendments. The Annual Meeting of the Convention is a business meeting. Delegates will come prepared, having reviewed the budget and the resolutions. In addition to the regularly scheduled annual meeting in October, this year elected delegates must commit to and be able to participate in two additional gatherings: 1) The special Convention to be also at 'Iolani School, Honolulu on Saturday, May 16, 2026; and 2) the "meet the bishop candidates" on Sunday, April 26 at 1:30 PM at St. James'."

Vestry members whose terms conclude at the January Annual Meeting: Jackie Minto, Harry Morley, and Ian Hersey. Hans thanked Jackie for her two years of service as Vestry

The Parish Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 25, after the 9:30 AM service at St. James' Pavilion

The Vestry Retreat, Saturday, February 7th, 8:30 – 12:30 PM at Holoholoku, Bishop Gillies leading devotional time. Thank you to Katie and Rick Fendel for hosting. *Is anyone available to pick up salads from Island Naturals that morning?*

Marnie then offered the St. James' Associate Rector's Report by sharing that "this is a GLORIOUS Vestry!"

Linda then offered the St. Columba's Associate Rector's Report by sharing that it is very busy at the church; NA (Narcotics Anonymous) will begin holding meetings there. The Grief Circle is coming up, as well as the Prayer Vigil at the end of March, and sign-up sheets are available. A collection basket will be put out for St. C's Pantry in the St. James' church. Canned proteins and prepared rice are needed as are prepared noodles.

There was no Rector's Report as David was out of town, and no Executive Session needed.

Hans took the opportunity to present Jackie Minto, outgoing Vestry member with a lei, as she will not be at the Annual Meeting. He and the Vestry thanked her for her two years of service. Mahalo Jackie!

Vestry was reminded that the next Vestry meeting is immediately following the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 25, to elect clerk of the Vestry and set the date of the next Vestry meeting

Vestry then offered the Concluding Prayer: O God our protector, by whose mercy the world turns safely into darkness and return 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 3:58 PM Terri motioned to adjourn, Jackie seconded.