

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

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

Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 2 PM

Present: Ian Hersey, David Stout+, Marnie Keator+, Harry Morley, Katie Fendel, Terri Greenwell, Linda Lundgren+, Pat Anderson, Joe Bollinger (Guest), Melanie Rufo, Hans L'Orange, Jackie Minto, Michael Thompson, Tim Bostock (Guest), Alex Woodbury (Guest)

At 1:50 PM David opened in prayer and lead the Vestry in an Exercise of Focus about Joy vs. Happiness, in that it is not a forced cheer that the promise of God is already at work and that Advent Joy is not something that is manufactured.

The minutes from the November 25 meeting were presented. Harry moves to accept, Terri seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

Vestry moved into Executive Session at 2:15 PM and discussed staff compensation. Vestry moved out of Executive session at 2:34 PM.

In the interest of time, David commended to Vestry the below in order to leave time for discussion regarding the Gathering Place and the acquisition of the Chock property.

Worship & Sacraments: *The Heart of All We Are and Do*

Weddings: David officiated at the wedding of Patricia Parks and Daniel Frazier on Friday, December 5th in Puako. He will officiate at the wedding of Jeremy Noller & Katherine Schmitt. Saturday, February 14th, 3:30 PM in Puako.

Deaths and Funeral services.

Sam Gingrich entered into Glory on Saturday, November 8th. Funeral will be held Tuesday, January 6th at 4:30 PM at Kahilu Town Hall with pupu reception to follow. David and Marnie will officiate.

Other special and upcoming services to note:

On Dec 21, 9:30 AM the Keiki Christmas Pageant at St. James' will be held. Kae Elledge has a special guest coming, Patron, a miniature donkey.

Christmas Services: Dec 24, Christmas Eve: 5 PM Christmas Eve Beach Mass at Kawaihae. Mahalo to the Canoe Club for the gift of having Christmas service on the beach. Truly special. All of the Beach Mass offering will go to the KCC keiki program. The 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service at St. Columba's will be held. At 7 PM the Christmas Eve Service will be held at St. James'. On Dec 25, 9 AM, Christmas Day Service there will be one service at St. James'.

On Jan 10, Baptism will be offered at Beach Mass. (Feast of the Baptism of our Lord). Astrid & Chris Caruso's baby.

Jan 24 & 25, Bishop Fitzpatrick visitation to Beach Mass & St. James'. The 9:30 AM service will include confirmations, receptions and a baptism of Lew and Pat Chartrand's grandchild. All parishioners are encouraged to come. All services will be offered. David noted that in canceling services we run the risk of a newcomer coming and there not be a service. The Rev. Brian McGurk will take service at St. Columba's. After the service Bishop Fitzpatrick will ask for God's blessing on the Chock Property as we continue toward acquisition. We then will have lunch and our annual Parish Meeting, which includes election of delegates to convention, vestry members, and Junior Warden.

On Feb 14, the 5 PM Beach Mass to include Renewal of Marriage Vows.

Ash Wednesday Services (February 17).

- 7-9 AM Distribution of ashes at St. James' Church.
- 7-8 AM Distribution of ashes at Kawaihae Small Boat Harbor (in front of KCC).
- Noon Eucharist at St. James'.
- 5 PM Eucharist at St. Columba's.

Outreach, Fellowship, and Youth & 'Ohana Ministries:

Keiki, Youth, & 'Ohana Ministries

2. St. Columba's After School Aloha Hour on hiatus until after Christmas.
3. Next Teen Tech, Sunday, January 11, 10:30 AM-12 PM in the back of Spencer Building.
4. Junior & Senior High Youth Ministry: "Youth on Sundays" Worship service. Mahalo to Youth Pastor Josh, Deacon Cathy, John Stover, and Kristel and Alex Kunishige.

Fellowship:

- Feb 17 the Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Supper will be held. Thinking ahead. Maybe one gathering this year at St. Columba's with the construction at St. James'? Vestry agreed that Shrove Tuesday pancake supper will be held at St. Columba's this year.
- The Christmas Bazaar was held at St. James' on December 6. Mahalo to all who were involved! Mahalo to Jeanne Cooper, Melissa Levitan, Patti Kim, and Linda Rodriguez for chairing. The Beneficiaries are the Community Meal Ministry, Annunciation Food Pantry, and Hawai'i Island Humane Society.
- The Thrift Store Christmas Volunteer Appreciation Party was held on Sunday December 14, 11:30 AM-1:30 PM at Anna's Ranch. Mahalo to all! The Keiki Christmas Store will be held on Thursday, 12/18 during Community Meal Ministry. Thrift Store will be closed from 12/20, reopening on Monday 1/5/2026 for donations and retail on Tuesday 1/6/2026.

The Community Meals Christmas Volunteer Appreciation Party is Saturday, December 13th, 12-2 PM in the Pavilion. There will be no meal December 25 & January 1, giving our volunteers a break. The monthly St. Columba's Community Meal was held on Tuesday, December 9.

Regarding Adult Spiritual Formation, Confirmation/Newcomer/Inquirer's Class is being offered. Cathy is leading. Marnie Assisting. They are not meeting on Dec 28 & January 4.

The Monday's Bible Study will restart in January.

Our Wednesday Men's Bible Study to go on break for Advent. Will restart on January 7.

Friday Women's Bible Study is on hiatus until January.

Our Advent program is being led by Carl McColman teaching at St. Columba (Mondays) and St. James (Wednesdays) using his newest book, "Reading the Bible like a Mystic: A contemplative reading of Scriptures." Housing being provided by Donna Brown as well as air miles for travel. Mahalo Donna. Carl and his wife will use David and Bobby's car. Carl will also be preaching and leading a quiet day at the Cathedral of St. Andrews (Dec 13 & 14). He will also be leading a discussion on Christian mysticism at St. Augustine's, Kapa'au (Dec 7).

The 2026 Lenten program will be led by the Right Rev. (Bishop) Gillies. He and Liz will in residence February 1-March 29. 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 helping with exploring 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. They will use David and Bobby's car.

In regards to Newcomer & Evangelism, our Parish 'Ohana participated in the Waimea Christmas Parade, December 6. The Community Meal Ministry was the beneficiary of the parade

Salvation Army Bell ringing will be on Saturday, December 20th at Ace Hardware, a sign-up sheet is in the newsletter.

Welcome new members Weekend is set for Saturday & Sunday, January 10 & 11. (but now is moved to February 7 & 8.

Vestry then discussed the financials, and Michael offered the Treasurer's Report. Vestry reviewed the 2026 budget. David reminded Vestry that they can change the budget at any time during the year as needed. David asked for a motion to accept the 2026 budget with the adjustments made in Executive Session of increase in compensation. Terri motioned Katie seconded. Motion carries unanimously. David thanked Michael and Colleen and the Finance Committee. David presented Michael with a thank you wreath, he is finishing year 8 of serving as Treasurer. Bless you Michael!

David gave his Rector's Report.

- Vestry/Delegates to Convention(s)/Junior Warden Nomination Form published. David reminded that 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'.
- He then shared that Vestry members whose terms conclude at the January Annual Meeting: Jackie Minto, Harry Morley, and Ian Hersey.
- The vestry then discussed that the Parish Annual Meeting has been changed to lunch on Sunday, January 25 after the 9:30 AM service at St. James'. The Community Meal ministry will help with food, providing the main dish. Parishioners are invited to bring a side, salad, or desert.
- The Vestry Retreat will be held Saturday, February 7th, 8:30 – 12:30 PM at Holoholoku with Bishop Gillies leading devotional time. Mahalo to Rick and Katie Fendel for securing the location.

Hans then offered his Sr. Warden's Report and provided Vestry with an update regarding the Chock Property Acquisition. Hans thanked everyone for attending the walk through on Sunday. Our Buyer's Agent Bill Jardine was very clear that legally those who are living there need to be gone before St James' can take possession. Mr. Chock has agreed. Per our meeting with Mr. Chock we will put together a proposal with a cost estimate for the clearing of brush and boarding up of the buildings. Hope Services will be here on Thursday to offer help to those who are indeed of housing. The Environmental study starts on Thursday which is part of the due diligence of the acquisition. Mid-February is the aim for the closing date. Mr. Chock was also interested in a security firm. David stressed that we need a transition team. We have an acquisition team. Ian and Jaisy agreed to put together a list of what can be presented to Mr. Chock (general outline given to him through Bill) to clean up the grounds and patrol the grounds.

Hans also shared that he was recently invited to fill a vacancy on the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i. The Standing Committee serves as the Bishop's Council of Advice, fulfills responsibilities defined by the Constitution and Canons of both the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Hawai'i, and acts as the ecclesiastical authority in the absence of a bishop. After prayerful consideration and conversation with David, he has accepted the invitation and will be joining the Committee as a lay member at-large. The position became open when Doug Adams resigned to accept a role as Vice Chancellor for the Diocese. His term will run for one year, concluding at

the next Diocesan Convention in October 2026. Put simply, the Standing Committee functions as the vestry of the diocese. Hans said he has made clear to both David and the President of the Committee that his primary responsibility remains his ministry as Senior Warden at St. James' and his support of our parish 'ohana.

Ian then shared his Jr. Warden's Report and provided Vestry with an update regarding the stained-glass window at St. Columba's. James Erickson was providing quotes to the Davies family who is funding the process and installation. The window will arrive after the new year and Alex is donating the wood for the fixtures.

Tim Bostock then addressed the Vestry with a Gathering Place update regarding preliminary bids that have come in from Quality Builders and Pa'akai which are more than the original estimate/goal for the Gathering Place. Formal bids will be provided on December 17th. Discussion ensued regarding why the bids are coming in higher than initial estimates. Questions were asked of Tim and Alex Woodbury as to whether we can go back to the County to address some of the stipulations that they requested. Tim shared that we fundraised \$5M in a very short time. He is confident in raising an additional \$1M. It is fair to say that groundbreaking in February is unlikely. A question regarding the acquisition of the Chock property was then raised, and if this is going to affect those plans. Discussion ensued. Katie made a motion to continue with the acquisition of the Chock property where we are already under contract. Terri seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

David encouraged Vestry to listen to what people are saying and asking. He reminded Vestry that they are not voting in a vacuum.

A discussion ensued regarding what we should be thinking about with potential contingencies as it relates to unexpected costs. The full GC bids will have a contingency. We have a timeline with a liquidated damages clause. 260 donors are under \$10K. Tim needs help with the fundraising. A called Vestry meeting was set for Monday, January 5th at 2 PM.

Vestry moved into Executive Session at 4 PM and discussed the Housing Resolutions for Clergy. Vestry then moved out of Executive Session at 4:15 PM

The next Vestry meeting is Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 2 PM in the church.

Vestry then offered 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 4:20 PM Hans motioned to adjourn, Katie seconded.