

VESTRY MEETING MINUTES

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

Tuesday, November 25, 2025, 2 PM

Present: Katie Fendel, Harry Morley, Ian Hersey (Jr. Warden), Michael Thompson (Treasurer), Pat Anderson, Melanie Rufo, Hans L'Orange (Sr. Warden), David Stout+, Terri Greenwell, Marnie Keator+, Jackie Minto, Alex Woodbury (Guest)

Excused: Linda Lundgren

At 2:02 PM David called the meeting to order and began with prayer. He then led the Vestry in an exercise of focus and asked each of them to share a ministry moment for this past year for which they are grateful; and then that which they are hopeful for our parish.

The minutes from the October 28 meeting were presented. Harry motioned to approve, the motion was seconded by Katie and the motion carried unanimously. The vestry then entered into the minutes the Executive Session email vote from 11/3 to confirm the purchase of the Chock property. A motion was made by Hans "To authorize Bill Jardine to submit an offer to purchase the Chock property for \$3M". The motion was seconded by Ian, and the motion carried unanimously.

David commended to Vestry the below:

In the area of Worship and Sacraments:

Weddings:

- David and Marnie officiated at the wedding of parishioners Jerry Kremkow and Janett Easterling on Friday, November 7 at 3 PM in St. James' Church. Congratulations Jerry & Janett!
- The wedding of Patricia Parks and Daniel Frazier will be held on Friday, December 5th in Puako with David officiating.
- The wedding of Jeremy Noller & Katherine Schmitt will be held on Saturday, February 14th at 3:30 PM in Puako with David officiating.

Deaths and funeral services:

- Sam Gingrich entered into Glory on Saturday, November 8th. His funeral will be held Tuesday, January 6th at 4 PM at Kahilu Town Hall with pupu reception to follow.
- Joan "Fluffy" Greenwell Anderson entered into Glory on Tuesday evening, September 23. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, December 13, at 10 AM in Davies Chapel at HPA's Upper Campus, followed by a luncheon at her home.

More details will be shared as they become available.

Other special and upcoming services to note:

- November 23 & 24, Christ the King Sunday was observed with the honoring of our Holy Sovereigns, King Kamehameha IV and Queen Emma.
- Advent begins November 29 & 30.
- Dec 21, 9:30 AM, Keiki Christmas Pageant at St. James'. David shared that we need someone to organize keiki. Kae Elledge has a special guest coming, Patron, a miniature donkey.
- Dec 24, Christmas Eve
 - 5 PM Christmas Eve Beach Mass. Confirmation received from Kawaihae Canoe Club. All Beach Mass offering will go to the KCC keiki program.
 - 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service at St. Columba's.
 - 7 PM Christmas Eve Service at St. James'.
 - Dec 25, 9 AM, Christmas Day Service at St. James'.
- Jan 10, Baptisms at Beach Mass. (Feast of the Baptism of our Lord). Astrid & Chris Caruso's baby.
- Jan 24 & 25, Bishop's 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.

- Feb 14, 5 PM Beach Mass to include Renewal of Marriage Vows.
- Feb 18, Ash Wednesday:
 - 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 Ministries position, David has met with those participating in the youth ministry, a survey has been sent out, it is starting to get clear what we may need moving forward. The St. Columba's After School Aloha Hour continues with 50+ keiki and youth every Wednesday. Mahalo to Laura Williams and all who are helping with Godly Play at St. James'. Mahalo to John Stover for organizing the St. James' After School Ministry. There has been a great outpour of volunteers. However, we had no sign up at the school. John is talking with Waimea Elementary School to find out why, but we believe it is because of timing. John is currently planning to relaunch it after Christmas break. The next Teen Tech will be held on Sunday, December 7, 10:30 AM-12 PM in the back of Spencer Building. Regarding the Junior & Senior High Youth Ministry, "Youth on Sundays" Worship service is being held on Sundays. Mahalo to Youth Pastor Josh, Deacon Cathy, John Stover, and Kristel and Alex Kunishige.
- Fellowship:
 - a) a date needs to be set for a Winter Visitor Gathering.
 - b) Feb 17 is Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Supper. As we start thinking ahead, maybe this year we hold it at St. Columba's with the construction at St. James'?
 - c) The Christmas Bazaar at St. James' will be held on Saturday December 6. Jeanne Cooper, Melissa Levitan, Pattie Kim, Linda Rodriguez are co-chairs
- Thrift Store & Bookstore Ministries:
 - a) the Thrift Store Christmas Volunteer Appreciation Party is slated for, Sunday December 14 from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM at Anna's Ranch.
 - b) The Keiki Christmas Store will be held on Thursday, 12/18 during Community Meal.
 - c) Thrift Store will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, open on Friday 11/28 for "Black Friday" with all items in store \$1 from 8 AM-12.
 - d) The Thrift Store will be closed from 12/19, reopening on Monday 1/5/2026 for donations and retail on Tuesday 1/6/2026. A plan for rearranging the containers during Gathering Place construction was discussed.

Community Meal Ministries, for St. James':

- the November 27, Thanksgiving Day Service & Lunch will be held from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM.
- The Community Meals Christmas Volunteer Appreciation Party will be held on Saturday, December 13th, 12-2 PM in the Pavilion. There will be no meal on December 25 & January 1. A volunteer with McDonald's gift cards will be onsite.

The next St. Columba's Community Meal is Tuesday, December 9.

Adult Spiritual Formation:

- the Confirmation/Newcomer/Inquirer's Class is being led by Cathy McPherson-Tamos and Reverend Marnie. It is a 6-week offering starting, Sunday, November 30, 11 AM in the Parish Office. They will not be meeting on Dec 28 & January 4.
- The Monday Bible Study at St. Columba's will become Advent Bible Study. Will restart in January.
- Wednesday Men's Bible Study to go on break for Advent. Will restart in January.
- Friday Women's Bible Study continues with special Adventide focus.
- The Prayer Ministry led by Dr. Aimee Love and Monica Newcomb is determining the next meeting including place and time, might be in the Godly Play room.
- Regarding the Advent program, Carl McColman will teach 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 lead a discussion on Christian mysticism at St. Augustine's in Kapa'au (Dec 7).

- For the 2026 Lenten program. The Right Rev. (Bishop) Gillies and Liz to be in residence February 1-March 29, 2026 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.
 - They will use David and Bobby's car.

Newcomer & Evangelism:

- the Community Meal Ministry is participating in the Bucket Brigade at the Christmas Parade on December 6. Mahalo to Tim Bostock for organizing.
- A date for New Member Welcome Weekend needs to be set.

Vestry then moved into the area of Finance. At 2:28 PM David distributed the budget. Michael went through the expenses first and suggested that we increase the Stewardship goal to \$533K. David shared that it is a huge testament to this parish ohana when times are tough like these and groceries are expensive to see the outpouring of generosity. St. Columba's congregation has grown to at least 15 pledgers and the calls by the gratitude committee have been mostly check-in. Michael suggested that we put something in the budget for the acquisition of the Chock property.. If we put in \$25K it would raise the deficit \$32,751. Hans requested that Michael increase the placeholder for the Chock property maintenance to \$50K which will increase the deficit to \$56,700.. Terri suggested that some of the recovery groups may want to volunteer to clean up the place so they can use it for meetings Michael will send Vestry the Gathering Place schedule of payments.

Hans then offered his Sr. Warden's Report and shared that the purchase of the Chock Property was enabled by the generous donation of Harry Morley and the bequest from the Tom Robertson Estate. Mahalo Harry and Tom! Hans requested that the vestry affirms that an immediate and significant blessing of acquiring this property is the ability to move forward with the construction of The Gathering Place with far less disruption to our ministries, programs, and schools. The property will be used for staging construction equipment, supplies, and materials; additional parking during construction and a possible space for the Community Meal ministry (still to be determined). The vestry voted unanimously to move forward with the intent to purchase it.

The vestry believes the purchase of this property is in keeping with the hopes and intentions of Tom Robertson, as referenced in his will, which included expanding the mission and physical capacity of the church. Harry Morley made his gift with the hope and trust that future generations of parish leadership will keep at the heart of the property's use: sharing the Gospel in service to the people of Waimea and our island home.

A Resolution requested that "the Vestry commits our parish 'ohana to a broad period of prayerful discernment, moving forward with love and integrity as we consider how this property will be used for the communities of Waimea and Moku 'O Keawe." Motion to accept moved by Katie, seconded by Terri. Motion carries unanimously.

Alex Woodbury then gave Vestry an overview of the Chock property. As a building inspector, he has inspected the property three times over the last three decades. A question was asked regarding the security of the Chock property. He shared that one of the simplest ways to secure it is hiring Alert Alarm and arming all of the buildings. The police will show up immediately if any activity is noted. We can also install a camera with the security system and lights. Signs are posted, yard is cleaned up and debris is taken away. At least three of four cottages on the property are moving in ready. There are 6 buildings identified on the property but not necessarily permitted. There is an

open improvement permit that Habitat pulled to replace the electrical system that was damaged on the fire. Alex was able to find a build date of 1950 and Vestry will ask Bill Jardine to drill down on it. The restaurant portion needs a ton of work and there is a lot of weather-related damage. The warehouse has water intrusion issues; the roof needs to be reframed to switch the pitch so that it pitches the other way. Septic systems are functional, and they have been serviced and inspected within the last decade. Grease trap was removed. The property is 1.7 acres. David then shared that we have received a great amount of feedback as people responded to hearing about the purchase. There have been three very distinct comments 1) use the existing Chock Store for The Gathering Place, 2) move the Gathering Place onto the Chock Property, or 3) keep everything as is and move forward as scheduled with the Gathering Place. David said that we will research all options and asked the vestry to be ready for a called meeting. David asked that, after the closing on the property, the vestry will need to decide how best we will seek to discern as a parish 'ohana, i.e. formation of a Discernment Committee, who will guide us in listening to the Holy Spirit. David has some thoughts about how we might move forward in this regard, but the first steps: securing and cleaning the property.

Ian then offered his Jr. Warden's Report. Regarding the Gathering Place, we are waiting on the receipt of bids, which are due on December 10th. The St. Columba window returning update. It was removed and restored, and James Erickson has placed a massive wooden frame to protect it with a steel stand. The plan is to install it into the wall and secure everything for it on the inside and have a plexiglass window on the outside that is sealed. The Plexiglas can be replaced after a decade. Alex has been helping with this, inspecting, and donating the wood, and the work will be done by William, who has been doing the windows. They have both spoken with James Erickson. Restoration, Transportation and Installation will be by the Davies family sometime in the 1st quarter.

David then offered his Rector's Report by presenting the Vestry letter of support for Jeanne Cooper as a postulant for ordination to the diaconate. Katie motions to approve, Terri seconds. Motion carries unanimously. The Vestry/Delegates to Convention(s)/Junior Warden Nomination Form has been published and the nomination form for delegates provides the 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 Convention and vote on amendments. The Annual Meeting of 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.

The Parish Annual Meeting is set for Friday, January 23 at 4:30 PM, and the Vestry Retreat will be on Saturday, February 7th, 8:30 – 12:30 PM. Bishop Gillies is leading the devotional time.

At 3:50 PM Vestry moved out of Executive Session. The next vestry meeting is Tuesday, December 16 at 2 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.

Hans motioned to adjourn at 3:55 PM, Harry seconded. Motion carries unanimously and Vestry then walked over to the Chock property with Alex Woodbury.