

St. David's Episcopal Church

Wardens' Report

November 2025

Here are some updates on what your wardens have been working on for the last month:

Pledge Campaign Update and 2026 Budget Preview

As of November 11, 89 pledges have been received for a total of \$391,920.

The finance committee met the evening of November 10. The current plan is for a budget showing \$420,000 in pledge income, \$25,000 of additional revenue from new members, and a 2.8% cost of living increase for staff plus a 2% merit increase. This current draft budget has a deficit of \$20,000.

St. George's Merger

The merger transition team met again on November 11. The agenda covered checking in with each congregation, review of the transition timeline (St. George's closing December 31, final Sunday worship December 28, big welcome at St. David's on Epiphany (January 11)), welcome and integration, property and artifacts, and next steps. The team will meet again in early December.

St. George's has requested that \$400,000 of their endowment be transitioned to St. David's. There is a possibility that some other funds could be transitioned as well. This would all require the approval of the Bishop, Standing Committee, and trustees – a meeting to discuss this request is being scheduled for early December.

Safety Team

The Safety Team has been recruited. Members are: Diane Curley (co-chair), Mike Sandsmark (co-chair), Erik Belz-Brock, Anna Belz-Brock, Bonnie Boyd, Cliff Crockford, Doug Eichten, Lindsay Freeman, Mary Idzik, Patti Jurkovich, Judy Roggow, Randy Schwichtenberg, and Cathy Schwichtenberg. The team will have a kick-off meeting on Thursday, November 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Initially, the team will focus on two areas: 1) review and update the current Safety Plan, and 2) develop a role-based training plan. Longer term, the team will be looking into doing a vulnerability assessment with outside help (e.g. Minnetonka PD, Kingswood Security) and develop mitigation strategies. These strategies will likely require funding.

Nominating Committee and Potential Candidates for Election at Annual Meeting

Leadership is recommending the appointment of the Rector, Senior Warden, and Junior Warden as the official nominating committee for the 2026 annual meeting. These are the same positions that were on last year's nominating committee.

We would also request that the Vestry spend some time before the meeting thinking about potential candidates for elected positions. We will need to elect at the annual meeting:

- A Junior Warden
- At least two new Vestry members (potentially a third if the Junior Warden comes from the Vestry)
- A ECMN Convention delegate and two alternates
- Potential youth vestry member
- Treasurer (Stephen is in the second year of a maximum four year term)

2026 Endowment Spending Options

The discernment topic for this Vestry meeting is the tithing of the 2026 endowment distribution. We will be discussing the 2026 endowment spending alternatives at the December meeting, but here is a list of the requests received by the deadline and amounts requested:

- Peace Garden – Sidewalk/Stairs from ICA Sidewalk: \$31,000
- Peace Garden Redesign – Phase 1: \$10,000
- Automated Door Openers: \$6,000
- Bench off Regional Trail: \$1,200
- CCI Phase 2: Amount TBD (Meeting with Consultant November 18)

Respectfully Submitted,
David Niles
Sr. Warden