

Vestry Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2026

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting February 17, 2026

Present

Rector: The Rev. David Cox

Senior Warden: Will Henderson

Vestry Members: (current and incoming)

Hank Stratemeier, Kirsten Lee (incoming), Jaime Keltner, Kaylen Simpson-Porto, Linda Brown, Gretchen Sullivan, Betsy Ordonez, Leslie Malle, Teresa James, Craig Aikman (incoming), Ray Burchfield (incoming), Addrienne Conway (incoming), Natalie DeArmy (incoming)

Absent

Junior Warden: Ed Reasoner

Treasurer: Carol Zoellner

Clerk: Margareta Knopik

Vestry Members: Mark Hunter, Beth Lee, Roxy Pierce (incoming)

Mr. Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Devotional

Ms. Malle offered the devotional based on the Beatitudes, Mark 5:1-12.

Formation

No formal formation discussion.

Treasurer's Report

No formal treasurer's report.

Introductions

Both current and incoming Vestry members introduced themselves and the ministries they are involved in.

Realm

Mr. Henderson announced that the Vestry will be using Realm for communications. For the near future, he will communicate using both e-mail and Realm. He expressed appreciation for communication outside of Vestry meetings, noting that Ms. Brown is a good example of this.

The Vestry will have another Realm education day in the Spring. We will need to have both Android and Apple stations. It is important that we educate the parish that lap top/desk top may work better and importance of permission to share personal profile.

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Advice

Advice was shared with the incoming members:

- Listen to parishioners and their concerns.
- As a whole the Vestry represents the parish. Each member represents a different demographic.
- Speak up
- Think outside the box
- No dumb questions
- Giving announcements before the Sunday service gives the Vestry members good visibility. It is important that the parish sees a variety of members.
- Don't be afraid of the devotional. It is an opportunity for personal growth as well as learning from others.

Rector's Report

Rev. Cox expressed gratitude for the Sabbatical Grant Committee. The grant is a great opportunity for both Rev. Cox and the parish. A three-question survey developed by the committee will be sent to the parishioners next week. Ms. Keltner will inform the parish during announcements on Sunday, February 22.

Vestry Retreat

The Vestry Retreat will be held on the weekend of April 10-11, 2026. Heidi Carter will facilitate.

Stewardship

The Vestry agreed that we send out thank you notes to parish members who pledged to express our gratitude for a successful pledge drive. Ms. Simpson-Porto volunteered to lead the project

Vestry Membership

Ms. Brown moved to nominate Ms. Natalie DeArmy to fill a 2-year term on the Vestry. Motion passed.

Mr. Henderson asked Vestry members to think about a replacement for Ms Zoellner, Treasurer. The tentative plan is for this person to have a 2 year on-boarding period.

Junior Warden's Report

Mr. Reasoner circulated his report earlier.

Discussion regarding the recent departure of our Sexton followed. Mr. Reasoner, Ms. Liz Beedle, Building and Grounds Committee, and Carpenter Ants are addressing immediate needs. The company that cleans for the Day School has been approached to expand their services to the whole church. The staff is assessing the needs of the parish. At this time, staff are not actively pursuing replacement of the Sexton position. Rev. Cox shared he spoke with a rector of a similar sized parish that does not have a sexton.

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Entrance to the church has been updated from keys to FOBs. This will make it easier to track who has access to the church as well as tracking who is entering the church.

Ministry and Committee Team Updates

Mr. Henderson requested Vestry members to wear their nametags, both to identify as a Vestry member and encourage others to wear their name tags.

Follow up on Coffee Hour discussion: This past Sunday, both the EEI and Kitchen Angels prepared food for Coffee Hour. Ms. Keltner reported that she had notified the church office that EEI would be hosting coffee hour, but the message had not been shared with Kitchen Angels. Ms. Simpson-Porto reported she sent an e-mail to Ms Tracy Henry of the Kitchen Angels a couple of weeks ago. Ms. Henry, who had recent surgery, responded today.

Good Faith Network (GFN): The 3 issues GFN is addressing are Mental Health, Eldercare/Aging in Place, and Affordable Housing/Ending Homelessness.

- Ms. Simpson-Porto presented to the Lenexa Housing Committee in support of the sale of land to Habitat for Humanity for an affordable housing development. The Lenexa City Council is voting tonight with anticipation that the Council will approve the sale.
- ElderCare/Aging in Place is expanding from Johnson County to state level to utilize funding to support a CAPABLE (Community Aging in Place, Advancing Better Living for Elder) program.
- Dates to remember:
 - Solutions Briefing: Sunday, March 8, 3-4:30 pm, Grace United Methodist Church
 - Nehemiah Action: Tuesday, April 28, 6-7:30 pm, Resurrection - Leawood

Gardening Angels: Ms. Malle reported that the group has four new members. Leadership will change from Carolyn Boyd to Bob Whiltshire.

Decisions

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with no corrections.

Cards and *Strength for the Journey: A Guide to Spiritual Practice* by Renée Miller were given to the outgoing members, Jaime Keltner, Betsy Ordonez, Gretchen Sullivan, and Beth Lee (given to Kirsten Lee) from the Vestry.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2026, at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Malle