

MINUTES
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
August 19, 2025

Present

Rector: The Rev. David Cox

Junior Warden: Ed Reasoner

Treasurer: Carol Zollner

Clerk: Margareta Knopik

Vestry Members:

Linda Brown	Leslie Malle
Teresa James	Kaylen Simpson-Porto
Gretchen Sullivan	Beth Lee
Jaime Keltner	Betsy Ordonez
Hank Stratemeier	

Guest: Kirsten Lee

Absent

Mark Hunter

Senior Warden: Will Henderson

Rev. Cox called the meeting to order at 6:41 p.m.

AGENDA

Formation

Dr. Cox began conversations of ***Chapter 2, The Ministry of the Vestry: Governance, Structure, & Selection*** in the **Vestry Resource Guide**.

Conversation began with “what statements or issues caught your attention as you read this chapter?”

Ms. Knopik began with the sentence on p. 8 that stated “...the realities of many small congregations and dioceses where diminishing numbers face expanding workloads and feelings of frustration as they perpetuate models of governance that are outmoded and out of balance with the priorities of ministry and mission in a particular place” and questioned whether we ought to consider a different model. This led to ideas of how we might share leadership, especially among the ministries of the church.

Ms Malle brought the Covenants developed by the Experiencing God group as an example.

Ms. Zollner commented on how much she appreciates the passion of the current Vestry members and Ms. Lee observed that we have the gift of having all types of people.

Discussion focused on how we can help cultivate teams—that “oversight” isn’t the right approach, but, rather, reinforcing support of what the ministries do—more of “how can we help?” rather than “what have you accomplished?” It was observed that perhaps some formalized communications sessions might help clarify ongoing questions and raise awareness of what all our ministries do. Smaller community breakout groups do allow people to “see” others. Ms. Knopik offered to attempt to develop a Venn diagram of how various ministries are interconnected for purposes of more effective communications. Proactive training, such as providing sessions of Safeguarding God’s Children, would also provide more nimble responses and less reliance on just a few people. It was also noted that those who are doing things well should be thanked.

The formation discussion for the September meeting will be a continuation of **Chapter 2**.

Devotional:

The devotional for August was offered by Ms. Brown and based on Psalm 147: ***I WILL WITH GOD’S HELP.***

Discussion

1. **Church Website:** In a continuing conversation from last month’s meeting, Rev. Cox indicated that Mr. Coons had provided a list of recommendations for updating and maintaining the website. Mr. Stratemeier offered to take the lead now that Mr. Coons is no longer available.
2. **Children and Family Ministry:** A Safe Church in-person training is scheduled for September 20th from 9:00 am-3:00 pm and Ms. Keltner reminded everyone that it can be taken online. (Register with Addrianne Conway.)
3. **Rector’s Report:** Dr. Cox reported that the financial situation will take a little time to resolve with respect to meeting the ongoing needs of the parish and that before he hires he needs to know what he is hiring for with Rev. Bloyd-Wiseman no longer here and Deacon Drury retiring in November.
 - a. **Pastoral Care** will require a ½-time priest as it is complex with many moving parts.
 - b. **Youth and Children’s Ministry** will require a different approach. Rev. Cox reported that the Family Ministry group will meet again in October and that the recent meeting was very promising. The vision is to bring more children into the services as participants along with the adults (ex., lectors, ministries, music, messages) providing intergenerational teamwork. For the younger children, Ms. Malle is focused on Children’s Chapel and Ms. Keltner and Ms. Conway* will be hosting a Children’s Table at the upcoming School Bash. It should be noted that

Ms. Malle has also been attending the Day School Board Meetings as a representative of the Vestry.

4. **Financial Report:** Ms. Zollner provided current financials for review. She noted that there appears to be some confusion about definition of “pledges” (ex., some checks are arriving with “pledge” noted in memo but that no pledge card was ever submitted). She will be working on resolving these issues. She also noted that she will be writing articles for the Messenger this fall and will work with Mr. Menke* on them.
5. **Jr. Warden’s Report:** Mr. Reasoner provided his report (see attached). He noted the Vestry had indicated the need to have one proactive and special project each year and that the first priority is sound system in Spencer Hall. George Harter* has been advising and the information and estimates are being pulled together. A motion was made to accept the bid of \$3,084 as well as an additional \$2,500 for the projector plus equipment for its operation. The motion moved and seconded by Ms. Keltner and Ms. Ordunez passed.
6. **Administrative Matters:** Reminder to all to sign up for Sunday services. It was requested that a Welcome script be added to the announcements as a default message for everyone. Also, there is Realm training scheduled following services on September 7th for members of the congregation.
7. **Decisions**
 - a. Financial report as presented was accepted.
 - b. July 2025 minutes were accepted as corrected.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16th and Ms. Lee will provide the devotional.

Respectfully submitted,

/MSK/

Margareta Smith Knopik, Clerk