

MINUTES
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
October 21, 2025

Present

Rector: The Rev. David Cox

Senior Warden: Will Henderson

Treasurer: Carol Zollner

Clerk: Margareta Knopik

Vestry Members:

Linda Brown	Leslie Malle
Mark Hunter	Hank Stratemeier
Gretchen Sullivan	Beth Lee
Teresa James	Betsy Ordonez

Absent

Junior Warden: Ed Reasoner

Kaylen Simpson-Porto

Jaime Keltner

Mr. Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Devotional

Ms. Lee opened the devotional and Father David shared a message he had discussed with Deacon Monte from Thomas Moore: *Thomas Moore defines the soul not as a physical thing, but as a quality of experience that encompasses depth, value, and personal substance, which is inseparable from our daily lives. For Moore, the soul is the core of our being, connecting the mind and body, and is nurtured through imagination, artistry, and rituals. He suggests caring for the soul means embracing the full spectrum of life, including both its joys and difficulties, as well as finding sacredness in the ordinary.*

Formation

Rev. Cox continued conversations of **Chapter 3, Building Strong Leadership Teams** in the **Vestry Resource Guide**. Going forward we will focus on strategic planning (Chapter 4).

Ms. Lee and Ms. Ordonez focused on the need for transparent communication with the members of the church and different methods for doing so—that purposeful efforts must be made to follow through on initiatives and to inform and include others along the way. Ms. Sullivan asked about how the Vestry will evaluate progress and it was noted that different people already have accountability processes in place: Mr. Hunter with respect to Stewardship, Ms. Zollner with ongoing financials, and Mr. Reasoner, as the Junior Warden keep the Vestry

apprised of projects as they are completed. Ms. Zollner also indicated that she is always willing to provide information both in and after church.

Father Cox mentioned that, in order to thrive, we need to get back to caring because Jesus told us to do that—church is not a “transaction” and we must continue to work to integrate information into the life of the church. (For example, Deacon Monte’s service on Sunday where he received a call from God 😊 but he also spoke frankly about financial issues.)

Ms. Malle observed that “thank you’s” are impactful and that we cannot afford to let gratitude be forgotten. She also has noticed innovative approaches happening. Mr. Stratemeier reminded us that change will happen and that part of our job as a Vestry is to help it happen.

Ms. Lee and Father Cox both said that we need to keep our mission in front of us and be intentional in what we do. For example, be aware of how we bring on and orient new members in order to create and sustain the culture of Saint Michael’s. Strategic visioning will be necessary going forward as we transition to being smaller as a church.

Treasurers’s Report

Ms. Zollner brought the documents necessary to renew the line of credit. While the church has never drawn on the line, she feels it is prudent to have a backup, just in case. It was moved and seconded to approve.

Pledge cards for 2026 have begun arriving. Given the current financial status, which is very close to budgeted numbers, together with a better understanding of how members give, Ms. Zollner presented a proposed budget for 2026 for consideration. While there remains some uncertainty surrounding pledges vs. giving, the initial forecast should enable strengthening employees and provide additional support for services.

There were also questions regarding the relationship between STMAA and the Foundation and how apportionment formulas may be impacted, but Ms. Zollner is reviewing that and will report back at a later meeting.

Stewardship

Mr. Hunter reported that we are now 25 days into the Pledge Campaign and 28% of anticipated pledges have been received, which is similar to last year’s progress at this time. The progress “thermometer” is now being displayed in the Week by Week as well as in the Sunday Announcements.

Ms. Ordunez will present the “Moment of Gratitude” at the 10/26/2025 service just following the Nicene Creed. We do need additional volunteers willing to give a “Moment of Gratitude” presentation.

Mr. Henderson thought it would be impactful to get the message out about what we've accomplished as well as what we want to do going forward to demonstrate how giving affects all of Saint Michael's members. He indicated he would work on messaging with Mr. Hunter, Mr. Reasoner, and Ms. Zollner and then reach out to Mr. Art Menke for publication in the Messenger.

Junior Warden's Report (report attached)

Mr. Reasoner as not in attendance for the meeting but provided a written report.

Rector's Report

Father Cox announced that final signage has or will be completed very soon and that signs have been placed along 67th Street.

He has gotten quite a lot accomplished with respect to Realm and usage is beginning to increase.

A job description has been developed for Minister of Pastoral Care which will be discussed and confirmed with the Bishop. Ms. Brown mentioned she met Mr. Ron Wofford who told her he had been a Deacon at STMAA in the past. However, his name was not familiar to anyone at the table. Father Cox indicated he would attempt to track him down.

Father Cox is considering applying for a grant that would fund a 12-week sabbatical in the summer of 2027. The application is due early spring 2026 and if awarded would require a change to his current letter of agreement with STMAA. This grant is intended to provide time for writing for publication. Supply priests would be contracted for that time.

The celebration lunch for Suzi Drury's retirement has been scheduled for 12/14/2025. (It is not a secret.)

Ministry and Committee Team Updates

Ms. Malle: She attended the Day School Board Meeting. Also wanted to share that the children LOVED that Father Cox blessed their stuffed animals. Also, she reminded members that if we are still interested in branded shirts or hats, please get artwork to her. Father Cox reiterated that branding had GOT to appeal to younger members.

Ms. Ordunez: There was no Welcome-Connect last week—this team continues to be a work-in-progress. Please continue to invite people to church.

Decisions

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented.
The financials as presented were approved.

Ms. Lee led the closing devotional.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for **November 18, 2025**, at 6:30 pm and the formation assignment is ***Chapter 4, Vision and Strategic Thinking***, in the **Vestry Resource Guide**.

Respectfully submitted,

/MSK/

Margareta Smith Knopik, Clerk

Att: Jr. Warden Report