

**MINUTES**  
**St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting**  
**May 20, 2025**

**Present**

**Rector:** The Rev. David Cox

**Director, Youth and Family:** The Rev. Ryan Bloyd-Wiseman

**Junior Warden:** Ed Reasoner

**Treasurer:** Carol Zollner

**Clerk:** Margareta Knopik

**Guest:** Betsy Wickstrom, Moms Demand Action (MDA)

**Vestry Members:**

Linda Brown

Leslie Malle

Erik Coon

Kaylen Simpson-Porto

Mark Hunter

Hank Stratemeier

Teresa James

Gretchen Sullivan

Beth Lee

**Absent**

Jaime Keltner

Betsy Ordonez

Maureen Weber

**Senior Warden:** Will Henderson

**Director, Youth and Family:** The Rev. Ryan Bloyd-Wiseman

Dr. Cox called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and handed out a **Vestry Resource Guide** to anyone who did not yet have one.

**AGENDA**

The opening devotion, based on Matthew 6:34, was provided by Ms. Weber and presented by Ms. Brown.

**Presentations**

**Guest Presentation: Gun Violence Awareness Day**

Ms. Wickstrom gave a brief overview of the upcoming National Gun Violence Awareness Day, scheduled for June 6, 2025. She gave the Vestry three suggestions for visibly supporting this initiative: (1) wear an orange shirt (orange is a recognizable symbol of gun safety worn by hunters), (2) replace regular porch lights with orange ones, and (3) if the Vestry approves, sign a proclamation and agree to be included in upcoming media announcements and press releases created by the local MDA group.

She emphasized that the MDA is promoting awareness, education and statistical information leading to safe handling of firearms as most gun shootings are unintentional due to insufficient gun safety measures within our homes. They are not advocating taking away guns. The sample proclamation was used by the City of Prairie Village, KS, and was intended to be used as a guide. Following a motion by Mr. Hunter and a second by Mr. Brown, the discussion focused on the need to develop our own proclamation as well as ways it could be circulated in addition to the MDA press release such as via Facebook, the Messenger Newsletter (if scheduled for first week of June), and the June 1st Sunday bulletin and announcements. Mr. Coon mentioned that orange filters for lights are available at the Guitar Center and that there may be orange bulbs at local hardware stores.

There was also discussion regarding longer-term initiatives such as yard signs (perhaps including statistics) and regular gun-safety workshops.

Mr. Coon offered to rewrite/develop an appropriate proclamation on behalf of the Vestry of Saint Michaels and All Angels.

It must be noted that June 6th is also the day of the Pride parade.

Mr. Stratemeier offered an amended motion to reflect the need for an emergency email vote of the Vestry of the revised proclamation. Ms. Simpson-Porto seconded the motion.

With no further discussion both motions passed.

#### **Ms. Linda Brown: Grandparents for Gun Safety**

Ms. Brown introduced the role of Grandparents for Gun Safety which is an advocacy group emphasizing the need for gun safety, as well. (The group regularly hands out gun locks at events.) She shared that the author, John Pavlovitz, who writes about God and guns in America, will be the featured speaker at a local forum scheduled for October 13 (location to be determined). Her question was whether Saint Michaels would help promote this event.

Mr. Stratemeier made a motion to help promote the event and Ms. Simpson-Porto seconded it. Following brief discussion, the motion passed.

As an aside: Mr. Pavlovitz' YouTube Channel is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZwEL-Y1acBXrv-dorXaJ-w>.

#### **Formation**

Dr. Cox will begin conversations surrounding the **Vestry Resource Guide** at the July 2025 meeting. The assignment is to read **Chapter 1, The Mission-Focused Vestry**. He also indicated

he is considering facilitating a book discussion between Labor Day and October 13 focusing on God and guns.

### **Business Discussion**

#### **Financial Report: Ms. Carol Zollner**

Ms. Zollner presented the financials both for April 2025 as well as year-to-date. Because the year is still “young,” there are currently few issues of concern, but there are two that she brought to the attention of the Vestry: (1) Employee expenses are going to be tight due to a misunderstanding of when Rev. Bloyd-Wiseman’s salary/benefits began, and (2) building maintenance issues continue to surface. She reminded the Vestry that finances typically run in the red from now through the end of the year, but that we typically recoup in December.

She has been asked to write two articles for inclusion in upcoming newsletters. The first is intended to cover the budget and progress to date and the second, for later in the year, will address how we spend money and the impact of pledging.

Ms. Sullivan asked if we could reach out to those who haven’t formally pledged but who are paying on a regular basis. Mr. Hunter mentioned that that might be something that the Stewardship Committee could handle.

#### **Junior Warden: Mr. Ed Reasoner**

Mr. Reasoner recapped the report he sent prior to the meeting:

- The leak in the Nave air conditioning unit (Unit #4) was repaired. Due to the timing (i.e., warmer weather coming), the repair was approved at a cost of \$5,787. Our thanks to Anthony Plumbing for working with us.
- The sink hole in the East driveway was filled with gravel to determine whether it was expanding. No further damage was noted, and the hole will be filled with asphalt.
- The north fence of the Day School will be replaced prior to May 30<sup>th</sup> while the school is on break.
- New sod was needed by the South entrance, and the Boy Scouts agreed to repair the area. The project was completed in early May, and they have been watering the area twice a day. Our thanks to Michael Box for overseeing this work.
- The bottoms of the metal entrance doors to the Adult Classroom and Baker Youth Room have rusted. Repairs are being made to the rusted areas and they will then be repainted.

#### **Rector’s Report: Rev. Cox**

The contribution of Father Laird McGregor was noted and that he will be missed.

The thank you notes to be sent to those people who pledged for 2025 are nearly ready. Artwork from the Day School children was chosen, approved by their parents, and will be attributed on the cards. Dr. Cox approved the language for thanking parishoners.

Next year it is hoped that cards will be ready for everyone to sign at the February meeting.

Dr. Cox has put together a “wish list” as follows and asked that estimated costs be identified for each of them:

- The projector and sound system in Spencer Hall need to be replaced.
- Windows in the hallway need to be replaced as they are single-paned and drafty.
- Cushions for the pews in the Sanctuary.
- Remodel the men’s bathroom (and the women’s should be done again as well).
- Replace the round tables (need lighter, easier tables for moving, set-up, tear-down, storing).
- Development of outdoor Columbarium.
- 20 Prayer Books and Bibles for Adult Classroom use.
- New computers for staff.
- New lights in that Narthex—current fixtures are too dark.
- Update and consolidate the light switches in the Usher Closet.
- Update the kitchen to code.

He asked that as new items are noted, bring them to the attention of the Vestry.

Supply priests (Saturday evening services and to cover days off) are set through August.

### **Committee Updates**

**Stewardship Committee: Mr. Hunter** reported that current activities will be continued but that there are new or revisited initiatives being considered:

- Stewardship needs to be defined and multiple media and venues used such as videos intended to shine a light on more “everyday” activities.
- The Committee is looking at ways to develop new revenue streams and he asked that new ideas be forwarded to him.

**Realm: Mr. Coon** reported that transition to Realm is progressing slowly but he hopes to make significant progress over the summer.

**Good Faith Network: Ms. Simpson-Porto** provided a recap of the last GFN meeting held on May 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30 at Resurrection Church with the Chair of the Johnson County Board of Commissioners. It was disappointing that there appeared to be a complete turnaround on the part of the County with respect to the need to address the unhoused in the County.

### **Decisions**

The April 2025 Minutes were approved with no corrections or additions.

The Financial Reports were accepted as presented.

**Information**

The **Pride March** preparations continue. Reach out to Jaime Keltner with questions.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

/MSK/

Respectfully submitted,  
Margareta Smith Knopik, Clerk