

MINUTES
St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting
September 16, 2025

Present

Rector: The Rev. David Cox

Senior Warden: Will Henderson

Junior Warden: Ed Reasoner

Treasurer: Carol Zollner

Clerk: Margareta Knopik

Vestry Members:

Linda Brown	Leslie Malle
Mark Hunter	Kaylen Simpson-Porto
Gretchen Sullivan	Beth Lee
Jaime Keltner	Hank Stratemeier

Absent

Teresa James

Betsy Ordonez

Mr. Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Devotional

Ms. Lee provided the opening devotional based on Isaiah 40:28-31.

Formation

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

Copies of the Bylaws of STMAA were handed out together with the General Responsibilities for all Vestry Members of STMAA.

The focus of the initial discussion was Article IV (pg. 3) of the Bylaws which addresses election of Vestry and Convention Delegates.

Rev. Cox summarized the following:

- Wardens are not members of the Vestry. The Junior Warden is selected by the Vestry from the Vestry and the Senior Warden is selected by the Priest.
- The STMAA Vestry is made up of 12 members each serving a 3-year term. Elections are staggered so four members rotate off every year. If someone cannot serve out their term, a member of the congregation is selected, with their approval, to serve out the reduced term. Maureen Weber and Erik Coon resigned in August—Erik had one year

remaining, and Maureen's term had just begun in March. It was determined that someone would be approached to complete Erik's term of one year and Maureen's of two as part of the upcoming nominating process for the new year (rather than trying to recruit and bring people on at this late date).

- Outgoing members for this year are Jaime Keltner, Beth Lee, Gretchen Sullivan, and Betsy Ordonez.

Conversation ensued concerning the nominating process. According to STMAA Bylaws, the nominating committee is comprised of the four outgoing members; however, all agreed that recruitment of new Vestry members is the responsibility of all who serve. He asked everyone to think about and consider who would be good candidates for these positions and to refer names to the Church office. It was also suggested and agreed that Sunday announcements should include notice that nominations are being sought and encourage members of the congregation to prayerfully consider volunteering their own names as well.

Ms. Simpson-Porto recommended that at least one member should represent the youth of the church, if possible. However, depending on age, they may not be eligible to fully participate.

STMAA is also in need of Deacons who have been called to serve. Their calling is traditionally focused on a need they personally have discerned and to which they are committed. Typically, they work outside in the community, however, they are often invited to participate in services.

Ms. Brown recommended that once the website is fully functional, that the Bylaws be posted for public viewing.

Stewardship

Mr. Hunter provided a report on the planning for the Fall 2025 Pledge Drive. The initial mailing is scheduled to be sent 9/26/2025. All agreed that we must continue to be open and honest about financial decisions and let the congregation know where we are at with respect to spending and the budget. Mr. Hunter would like to film short videos of how money is used with links sent through the Messenger each month. He asked if anyone has requisite skills to help with the filming. Ms. Zollner reported that in order to maintain a general status quo, the appeal this year must request a 5% increase over what was given for 2025 (not necessarily what was pledged). An increase of 5% would provide coverage for pastoral care, supply priests for Saturday evening and youth ministry. (A 7% increase would be awesome.)

Treasurers' Report

Ms. Zollner provided income and spending against the budget and noted that we are on target so far for the year. She noted that Rev. Bloyd-Wiseman received her last salary payment in August and that the planned apportionment percentage determined by the Diocese may be reduced depending on voting at the 2025 Convention in October. The Vestry also needs to decide whether the qualified 2025 building and grounds expenses should be paid out of the Building & Grounds fund, which is restricted to certain expenses but is available for use.

Ms. Zollner provided some options for the Vestry to consider for the 2026 budget.

Junior Warden's Report (report attached)

Mr. Reasoner reported on the status of the video and audio systems for Spencer Hall. The sound system has been acquired, and Mr. George Harter has trained Father Cox, Mr. Ken Walker and Mr. Reasoner on how to operate it. Evaluation of the projector continues and may only require pulling updated (HDMI or Cat-5) cable.

YouTube streaming services have not been available over the past month as a part failed. It should be replaced and the service back very soon.

The Carpenter Ants continue to work on painting and repair of railings and A/C fixes. (Ms. Sullivan extended a "thank you" for painting an exterior door that had faded to pink, red.)

The toilet in the Sacristy has been repaired, and the Wish List continues to be analyzed with respect to costs in order to prioritize the items.

Rector's Report

Father Cox is requesting removal of the flagpole from the Church grounds due, in part, to the growing politicization of the American flag and flag etiquette. By removing the pole, it is hoped STMAA can continue to maintain separation of Church and State without getting caught up in current politics which could, in fact, turn ugly and dangerous. While no one present at the Vestry meeting expressed any concerns about removal of the pole, it was acknowledged that there will be members of the congregation who may be upset with this action and that they should have an opportunity to express their thoughts.

Discussion ensued and it was suggested that a "Wall of Honor" be created within the building that would be designed to recognize those who have given their lives for American principles.

According to the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas, the priest has final responsibility for all of the physical facility elements within and on Church property. Therefore, the Vestry made a motion inviting Father David to write a resolution on which the Vestry would vote following further discussion.

Website Updates and Realm Training

Mr. Stratemeier reported that he would be meeting with Rev. Cox and Mr. Henderson in the upcoming week to present his findings.

Those who conducted Realm training after services reported that this process will take time. Ms. Malle recommended that training be extended to include computer interface training in addition to the mobile app.

Other Issues

Ms. Knopik collected information from those Vestry members who are active with ministries within the church in order to identify communication overlaps as she works on creating a diagram of how communication works and who needs to be involved in discussions between and among ministries.

The Altar Guild members were very appreciative of recognition at the Sunday commissioning.

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 9:23 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for **October 21, 2025**, at 6:30 pm and the formation assignment is ***Chapter 3, Building Strong Leadership Teams***, in the **Vestry Resource Guide**.

Respectfully submitted,

/MSK/

Margareta Smith Knopik, Clerk