

Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

September 2026 Vestry Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 PM. Those in attendance were Fr. Jeff Marx, Martha Lenderman, Ting Ting Davis, Chris Baumgardner, Greg Hurley, Jay Walne, Don Johnston, Fr. Christian Senyoni, and Ashley Jamieson. Virtual attendees were Mary Walton Allen and Lisa Carter. Charles Hall was absent.

Devotional was led by Chris Baumgardner.

Minutes from the August 2026 meeting were reviewed. Ashley made a motion to approve the minutes and Jay seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

Quarterly Financial Review

Martha led a review of Balance Sheet. As expected, there was a budgeted withdrawal from the Short-Term Reserve Fund to cover the excess spending over income. Martha explained that more money is kept in the higher-interest-drawing savings account, so transfer to checking was required. In addition, EYC has done extra shopping for the Collierville Food Pantry to draw down the excessive balance in the Food Pantry account. In spite of poor attendance, it did not impact the finances in August.

Diocesan Convention

The Convention will be November 20–21 at St. Luke's Church in Jackson, Tennessee. Our four delegates are Ashley Jamieson, Lisa Carter, Ting Ting Davis, and Stan Hughes. Fairy Waters will be there in her Diocesan DOK role and will serve as an Alternate. Bud Phelps is the second alternate.

2027 Vestry Candidates

The Nominating Committee is responsible for finding three candidates for election at Saint Andrew's Night. Nominees will be named at the Oct 7 Vestry Meeting. Any additional nominees will be added to the list. Chris, Charles, Greg, and Jay shared on conversations they have had with parishioners and who is and is not interested.

Follow up on Strategic Planning and other business

Attendance has taken a hit in late summer and ASA has dropped to 155. We are currently averaging +5 over 2024, but -2 from 2025. We had been ahead of 2025 through June, but then the drop-off. The power outage probably had an impact at least one weekend. Pre-covid we were near 190 so we have decreased over 15%.

Fr. Christian shared about a Diocesan campaign to promote interest and involvement in Episcopal parishes. There will be billboards around the city with a generic message that will hopefully lead people to inquire at a website that will automatically connect them with the nearest parish. Each parish is to submit information to the diocese about services, programs, or special events. This immediate information will be supplemented by a link to the parish website. It is hoped that this will reach people who will be interested in joining with us over the holidays and beyond.

Installation of the new camera for the sanctuary is moving forward and Mary Walton is hopeful everything will be up and running soon.

Chris Baumgardner is offering a financial literacy class for upper high school students and young adults. Lisa Carter will be co-teaching. It is hoped that other youth in the area may also be interested. The class will be on Oct 18 and there will be resources provided.

Ashley provided an update on the Mahjong class held in partnership with Holy Apostles Episcopal Church. There were over thirty women in attendance, and future gatherings are planned. She expects the group to take off.

Don Johnston made a motion to adjourn. Greg Hurley seconded. Unanimous vote and meeting ended at 7:25 PM.

[These minutes were rewritten on Oct 8 by Fr. Jeff based on the minutes previously submitted for approval to Vestry at Oct 7 meeting. Vestry approved this redaction to take place. FJM]