St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vestry Minutes
September 16, 2026 – 6:00 pm

Members:

+Pastor Jean Vargo
+Chris Brandt, Sr. Warden
+Bob Neben, Treasurer
-Jill Davis
+ Cathy Fain
+Cheryl Strine
+Kathleen Walters
+Diane Labrie
+Steve Ireland, Jr. Warden
Guest: Micky Neben

+ In attendance - Absent

1. Opening Prayer

Called to order at 6:06pm, Opening Prayer offered by Jean

Dan McClain's case has been closed - Bishop will come to meet with the Vestry at a later date.

In October, Stewardship campaign - Oct 11 is kickoff/luncheon

Discussion on worship times and sharing concerns. Discussion on how to shorten service to get more time between services at St. Paul's and St. Mark's. Will reevaluate in mid-November and again in January.

Appreciative inquiry - what are the opportunities for exploration. We have an issue and we're going to explore and see what can be done and what opportunities exist. How do we create optimism in the church?

Discussion of community survey - results will be shared with congregation

Vestry reviewing new bylaws

2. Review/Comment of August 2026 Minutes

- Chris needs to be removed from attendance at last vestry meeting
- *Steve moved to approve minutes with the edit, Chris seconded, motion carried.*

3. Committee Reports

- **Properties**
    - Steve getting with Sam on properties - talking about the grant request for money for the chiller. Nothing much to report from finance- Waiting on sizeable pledge
    - Finance team reviewed 2027 budget, will be presented next month
    - Draft 5-year budget plan shared by Steve

- **Finance**
    - Special requests and budgets of each committee is requested to go to Finance team for budget planning - liaisons will get with committee chairs on budgeting
    - Columbarium pricing - $1000 for small niche

- **Outreach**
    - Major outreach project - think about Kettering school idea from Chris
        - Chris got in touch with one of the contacts with Kettering schools
        - There are options for participation - day of bagging lunches with other organizations who are also participating, can just provide the food if desired
        - Appreciative inquiry - Need to talk about this with parish and come back as a vestry next month to decide what we want to do with outreach

Vestry vacancies -

Nominating committee needs to be done by October

Jean working on committees information

Safe church and dismantling racism trainings need to be completed

Calendar

11 October stewardship kickoff
15 November - Jean ordination anniversary and staff appreciation day - Paul S in charge of reception that day - We need to figure out something to give to the staff members as a token of our appreciation
22 November - Stewardship closing, blessing of pledges
December vestry meeting needs to have everything for annual meeting approved
January 1 - meeting information, bylaws, nominations need to be shared with parish
Feb 7 - Annual Meeting
Feb 21 - Bishop visitation - joint vestry meeting following her meeting

Thank you notes

Sue, Cara, Lois
Dana
Chris Saunders
Leon

Videos about “Why St. Paul’s” for social media/website - send to Jean

1st and 3rd Wednesdays - work sessions possible as we go forward into the search process

Possibility of a noonday prayer on Wednesdays - Jeff and the transition team working on talking with other faith leaders in the area and see if they want to engage with us and help build a spiritual hub.

4. Closing Prayer

Adjourned: 8:01pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Walters, Secretary of the Vestry