

Minutes of the St. Andrew's Vestry Meeting May 26th, 2026

In Attendance

Suzannah Rohman, Rector
Bob Lundeen, Sr. Warden (Zoom)
Kelley Kash, Jr. Warden
Tanya Albert
Laura Blanchard
Les Foster
Kay Liss
Rita McKinney
Belinda Nields
Marek Pruski
Alex Pugh
Seth Stewart
Bill Judd (guest)

Opening Reflections

Rector Suzannah Rohman called the meeting to order @ 5 PM
Seth led the Vestry in opening prayers
Rita volunteered for to give the opening reflection for the June meeting

Reports and Action Items

- a. The April 26th minutes were approved
- b. **Treasurer Report** - Kelley presented the Treasurer's Report. He indicated that expenses were running essentially as budgeted. He announced there had been a conference call with the CFO of the Episcopal Church regarding financial transparency of the funds managed by DFMS (Domestic Foreign Missionary Society). It was noted that changes are being made to mitigate transparency issues, but that the DFMS has managed an acceptable 8% return over the past 30 years. Questions were raised as to what is achievable financially for any potential new construction. He asked that further discussion be deferred until the June meeting when Treasurer Ed Ross will be present.
- c. **Property Committee Report** - Bob announced that the Contract for the conceptual design of the Master Plan, presented to the Vestry on April 28th, is now completed. He also noted that construction to repair water damage in the undercroft will be completed by the end of the week. A June 5th walk thru inspection is scheduled.

Security System - Bill discussed the inadequate response of the current security system to the emergency caused by the water leakage and recommended we change companies to Cunningham Security. After the initial installation fee of \$2K the monthly fee will be less than is currently charged. Suzannah reiterated the need to change security companies. A motion was made and approved unanimously to employ Cunningham Securities.

d. **Earth Keepers Report** - Marek indicated "There is currently no consensus about the form of the acknowledgment or even its purpose among the Earth Keepers, the Vestry and by implication the congregation. To forge a path forward, the Earth Keepers would like to invite a speaker with a good knowledge of the history of our land and people. The event will hopefully occur during the next Season of Creation and inspire a discussion within our congregation on what is our relationship with the land which we currently occupy, acknowledge that this is the home of many, and that we have an obligation to remember our past and look to a better future".

Old Business

a. **Ann Kash Celebration** - A celebration in honour of Ann Kash for her 15 years of service to St. Andrew's will take place after the 10:00 AM mass on June 28th. Suzannah will be in touch with the congregation with details and gift giving suggestions.

b. **Faithful Giving Event** - Kelley is organising several Vestry members who plan to attend this event. These members will report on any suggestions/ideas for fund raising/Capital Campaigns within Episcopal congregations.

c. **Building Project Discussion** - The Parish Needs Discernment Committee (PNDC) identified several areas to improve fellowship within the church. The need to repair the accessibility ramp and the roof are priorities. For further construction there will be various Building Code issues that will add considerable costs to any new project. It was noted that any use of the Harry Vaughn fund must be precipitated by a Capitol Campaign and that \$1 million was an achievable goal. Kelley will follow up on church suggestions of a consultant to help us get started.

- There was discussion on declining membership and the increasing average age of parishioners. There are limitations on community leadership involvement as a consequence. A question was raised on the possibility of hiring someone to promote the church by various means, including social media. Suzannah voiced a concern that without an influx of new parishioners the church might no longer exist in 15-20 years.

New Business

a. **Review of Lent and Easter Season** - Suzannah asked for recommendations to improve Church activities during this time. A suggestion was made to establish an Easter Vigil. The consensus was that the membership is too small to make this a meaningful experience but that area churches do offer it.

b. **Foyer Groups** - Belinda suggested that we re establish the Foyer Group gatherings. A motion was made and passed that she coordinate this effort.

Expressions of Gratitude - Thanks were given to the Property Committee for their work on the flooding renovations and the Master Plan design project, to Ann Kash for her 15 years of service, and to Fred Kraeuter for his work in the garden.

Meeting Adjourned 6:55PM. Next Vestry meeting - June 23rd @ 5:00 PM

Respectfully submitted, Les Foster - Clerk

