

St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

Minutes of Vestry Meeting

2/17/2026

Vestry Attendance

Present: Richard Murphy, Peter Purcell (Senior Warden), Dale Sandusky, Lynn Searfoss (Clerk), Jim Snow, Bob Amos, Mike Matthews (Junior Warden), Luba Skibo, Jill Storelli

Absent: Bob Rhoads

Others Present: Sam Tallman, Amanda White, Billie Rogers

The meeting was called to order at 6:30.

Agenda: Peter Purcell provided the agenda, which was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Minutes: The minutes of the January, 2026 meeting were read and unanimously approved.

Tour of Homes Update: Billie Rogers gave a brief update concerning the 2026 Tour of Homes Committee Meeting held on Sunday, February 15, 2026. She reported that the committee is on track at all levels and that all subcommittees provided encouraging information at that meeting. Work is on track with the publicity, the tents, the bake sale, and the flowers. The four houses to be toured have been selected, and the Patron's Party has been scheduled for Saturday, July 11, at the Caudill house, ticket prices TBD.

Treasurer's Report: We are in excellent condition regarding cash flow. Pledge payments are normal for this time of year. Non-pledge contributions are up a bit; perhaps there are still outstanding pledge cards. Amanda White will talk to Michael about this situation. A review of the budget reveals that our income is currently exceeding expenses. The Finance Committee is still working out where money allocated to the Temporary Holding Account should go.

The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Junior Warden Report: Mike provided an update on several projects. Green Valley Arborist completed the tree work and stumps in early February. The cost of the work came in below the quote. They will correct the maple tree roots near the playground once the ground thaws and will try to save the tree. Snow removal has switched to Harold Triplett and is going well. The new snow blower for the sidewalks is working well. Early in the year, Mike will get quotes for the concrete front walk, to be completed prior to the TOH. Regarding the

rear wall project, bids are in. We dissed the preferability of using Allan Block for the wall rather than boulders. Mike will get a new route from Artistic Landscaping using block.

Senior Warden Report: Peter reported that he has studied the canons and by-laws and has determined that we are able to carry on with our work and worship as a parish without the need for an interim priest. He has met with employees, officers, and key people in the parish and found ample support. We are covered with supply clergy through April. Rev. Torrence Harman will offer the Rector's forum in March. Both Morning and Evening Prayer are scheduled. For pastoral emergencies, everyone is asked to contact Peter Purcell, who will do triage. Lay Eucharistic Visitors are available, and both Father Rick and Mother Torrence are available as well as others from within the parish and from area clergy. Father Rick will generally be available at the church on Wednesday mornings. Both finances and human resources are in good shape.

Outreach Committee: The committee met on Feb. 10, and decided on three ministries to support our neighbors and refugees: Episcopal Migration Ministries, recommended by both our Presiding Bishop and Bishop José; Bridge Refuge Services, which offers services in Eastern Tennessee; and Casa Maria, Minneapolis, which provides a safe place for neighbors to gather, receive groceries and clothing, and find options for healthcare, employment and housing. The Outreach Committee asks us to "pray for the hurting, the isolated, the frightened" and for "wisdom and sound judgment for all those in leadership." They ask us to join them in learning about and addressing the needs of our community.

The proposed disbursements were unanimously approved.

Closing and Adjournment: The meeting ended with devotions and adjourned at 7:27.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Searfoss, 3/17/2026