

St, Mary of the Hills
Vestry Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2025

Vestry Members Present: (In person) Mike Austell (Senior Warden), Jill Storelli, Bob Amos, Sue Sweeting, Rob Rhoads, Marshall Culp (Junior Warden), Luba Skibo
(Via Zoom) Burt Mulford, Mike Matthews, Lynn Searfoss, Michelle Curry, Jim Snow

Others Present: Fr. Andrew Hege (Rector), Elizabeth Sudderth (Clerk),
Amanda White (Treasurer)

Fr. Andrew called the meeting to order at 5:48pm.

Fr. Andrew requested acceptance of the meeting agenda.
Rob Rhoads made a motion to accept the agenda as presented.
Sue Sweeting seconded the motion.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew requested approval of the January minutes as presented.
Bob Amos made a motion to approve the January minutes as presented.
Jill Storelli seconded the motion.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew noted some needed amendments to prior months minutes:
In both October 2024 and November 2024, the Executive Committee took actions,
not the Finance Committee.
In December 2024, Sue Sweeting asked for better readability of the Analysis of
Revenues and Expenses.
Mike Austell made a motion to approve these changes to the minutes of October,
November, and December 2024.
Jill Storelli seconded the motion.
The Vestry approved the motion.
The Clerk will make the appropriate amendments and forward them to Fr. Andrew.

Fr. Andrew led a devotion for the early evening.

Amanda White shared the Treasurer's report.
Amanda noted that pledge payments were quite large in January. This is due to some
parishioners who prefer to make their complete pledge payment for the year in January.
Amanda reported that Orian Carter is working with Michael to make needed corrections
to the balance sheet.
Sue Sweeting made a motion with a second from Lynn Searfoss to accept the Treasurer's
report. The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew reviewed the parochial report for 2024. This is a report required by the canons of the Episcopal Church which details all parish activities and membership and service data. Andrew noted that our membership numbers are up over 2023.

Our financial status as reported on the parochial report determines the amount of our Diocesan pledge each year. The pledge is based on our total revenue from two years prior. Our total revenue on this report is \$637,048; therefore, our Diocesan pledge to be paid in 2026 is 10% of that figure, or \$63,705. Amanda noted that she needs to get some updated figures to Michael so that some data that needs to be amended on the report can be corrected prior to submitting the report to the Diocese.

Rob Rhoads made a motion with a second from Sue Sweeting to submit the report to the Diocese when corrected by Michael.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Mike Austell submitted the Senior Warden's report to the Vestry and it is available for review. Topics covered were Christian Formation opportunities for all ages and stages of life, a summary of Outreach contributions in 2024, and ways to be involved and engaged in any number of areas to serve God and our communities through St. Mary's. Mike encourages us all to consider a new expression for the 3 R's-Reading, Reflecting, and Re-engaging.

Fr. Andrew noted the Outreach committee is donating an additional \$1000 to Diocesan Hurricane Helene relief. Since this recommendation comes from a standing committee of the parish, Vestry action is not necessary.

Marshall Culp submitted the Junior warden's report to the Vestry and it is available for review. Topics covered were next steps toward the replacement of the Lych gate, continued work on addressing the moisture problem in the Sacristy and Bell Tower, upcoming work on the gutter guards along the church wall in the Close, the retaining wall project, and snow removal.

Fr. Andrew submitted the Rector's report to the Vestry and it is available for review. Topics covered were his recent retreat alongside the brothers at the Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the Rector's Forum, plans for Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, planning for Lent including a book study, plans to discuss the topics and areas the Vestry spent time discussing last month as planning for this year of our work together, and a book that the Vestry will read together as a group during Lent, *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

He noted that Peter and Valerie Purcell will share about their recent pilgrimage to Rome during the Rector's Forum time this coming Sunday.

Facts and Figures for January:

Holy Eucharists celebrated: 16

Daily Offices (Morning/Evening Prayer): 19

Average Sunday Attendance: 106

Wrap-Up time:

What did we accomplish tonight?

Reviewed and approved the yearly Parochial Report

Got more detail on the Bell Tower issue

Got good clarifications/explanations on the financial report

Sue Sweeting made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:12pm.

Jill Storelli seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk of the Vestry