

## St. Mary of the Hills Episcopal Church

### Minutes of Vestry Meeting

3/17/2026

#### **Vestry Attendance**

Present: Bob Amos, Mike Matthews (Jr. Warden), Richard Murphy, Peter Purcell (Sr. Warden), Bob Rhoads, Dale Sandusky, Lynn Searfoss (Clerk), Jim Snow, Jill Storelli

Absent: Luba Skibo

Others Present: Sam Tallman, Amanda White

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:46

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

**Minutes:** The minutes of the February 2026 meeting were read and unanimously approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Amanda White provided the financial reports, stating that we are in a very strong financial position. Our revenues are currently exceeding expenses, in part due to early pledgers. She noted that it is common for YTD pledges to be far ahead at the beginning of the year. We have plenty of cash available to cover expenses. The financial reports were moved, seconded, and unanimously accepted.

**Outreach Committee Report:** Peter Purcell presented the outreach committee report. He noted that Mike Austell has been ill but is doing well and that the committee report comes from notes taken by committee member Michelle Curry. The committee recommends that a disbursement be made to support Oasis, whose work we have traditionally supported. The funds were unanimously approved.

The Outreach Committee will be collecting personal hygiene items and totes in April to benefit Oasis.

The 4/12 reception in honor of the Glosters will serve wine and be catered. The St. Mary's Charitable Outreach Trust is now The J. Gary and Julia Jayne Gloster Caring Trust. There is no charge to change the name.

**Stephen Ministry Report:** Lynn Searfoss provided a short report on the progress of the Stephen Ministry and requested feedback from the vestry on the proposed timeline for approving and training Stephen Ministers. After a short discussion, the vestry

recommended that the Stephen leaders proceed with the proposed timeline rather than waiting for the rector's return.

**Junior Warden Report:** Mike Matthews reported on the progress of several projects. He is awaiting bids for the rear wall using Allan block. He is also waiting for a quote for the concrete front walk. The walk will be completed before TOH. He reported that Mike Miller repaired the hinge mounts on the shed door after strong winds had damaged them. The shed is fine now. Mike has been in touch with Artistic Landscaping and has reviewed plans for landscape maintenance, including the pruning of the rhododendrons. He noted that the rhodos will not be pruned severely.

**Senior Warden Report:** Peter Purcell began by providing an update from Bishop Jose and Canon Augusta, noting that Andrew is doing well and that our timeframe for his absence seems to be accurate. He should return around the beginning of May. Father Rick and Mother Torrence have been serving as supply priests and will continue to serve in that capacity until Andrew's return. Both Rick and Torrence will be away on April 19, but Canon Augusta will come to celebrate the Eucharist.

All staff and vestry members, as well as anyone who interacts with the public, need to receive Safe Church Training. This is very important legally as well as being generally a good idea. Peter will have Michael send the vestry links to complete the training.

Peter provided a short explanation of the Diocesan Church Property Search, noting that this takes place to make sure that there is an accurate record of all property owned within the diocese.

The Outdoor Stations of the Cross have been installed and are now ready to be used. They are attractive and well-mounted.

Malea McAllister has been hired as Christian Formation Coordinator.

Peter attended the diocesan vestry leadership day on 3/7/2026, and found it very informative and invigorating and recommends future leadership days to vestry members.

On a personal note, he reported that he will be away from the church for a few days due to knee surgery, but that he will continue to be available by phone and email.

**Closing and Adjournment:** The meeting closed with evening devotions and adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Searfoss, 4/20/2026