

St. Mary of the Hills
Vestry Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2024

Vestry Members Present: (In person) Mike Austell (Senior Warden), Bob Finney (Junior Warden), Jill Storelli, Marshall Culp
(Via Zoom) Joe Doswell, Burt Mulford, Buddy Fore, Michelle Curry

Vestry Members Absent: Jim Snow, Sue Sweeting, Leslie Billingsley, Lynn Searfoss

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

Fr. Andrew called the meeting to order at 5:49pm.

Fr. Andrew requested acceptance of the meeting agenda.
Bob Finney made a motion to accept the meeting agenda.
Mike Austell seconded the motion.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew requested approval of the March meeting minutes.
Mike Austell made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes as presented.
Bob Finney seconded the motion.
The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew led a devotion for early evening.

Fr. Andrew led a review of the Vestry covenant.
Vestry members were asked for feedback on any area of the Covenant which they believe needs updating. No part of the Covenant was requested to be amended at this time.
Andrew explained that the Covenant will be reviewed at least quarterly.

Amanda White shared the Treasurer's report.
The parish remains in a healthy cash position; our funds on hand are higher than at this time last year. The trust and endowments accounts are growing nicely.
Amanda reported that the Vestry should have up to date financial packets from January, February, and March of this year available for review at the next Vestry meeting.
The 2023 year-end report is now complete; Michael has been working diligently to complete this. Amanda noted that when making a contribution to the parish by check or online, it is quite helpful to indicate if you are paying towards your pledge if appropriate.
Fr. Andrew noted it is still on Michael's radar to move our brokerage account away from Wells Fargo.

Fr. Andrew shared the Rector's report which was distributed to the Vestry and is available for review. Topics addressed were administration updates, a review of Holy Week and Easter services, Christian Formation updates, important upcoming dates in our parish life, and data on attendance and worship services. Average Sunday attendance YTD is 117.

Additional updates shared by Fr. Andrew at the meeting:

Andrew is in the process of reviewing staff positions and salaries. After this review, he is considering a proposal to request a cost-of-living increase for staff for the remainder of this year. He will discuss the proposal with the Executive Committee and report back to the Vestry.

Andrew noted that a slate of 5 candidates to succeed Presiding Bishop Michael Curry after his retirement this year has been developed. He urges all to be in prayer for these candidates as well as Bishop Curry. The election will take place in June, and the new Presiding Bishop will be seated in November.

Bob Finney shared a detailed Junior Warden's report which was distributed to the Vestry and is available for review. Topics covered were the exterior painting of the building, the Bell Tower, the Frontal cabinet in the Sacristy, the HVAC unit replacement in the nursery, the Outdoor Stations of the Cross project, the sidewalk in front of the door facing Main Street, a priority list from the Grounds committee, and most importantly, Bob's announcement that he is resigning as Junior Warden and from his position as a member of the Vestry. His resignation is due to health issues which have worsened considerably in the past several months. In his report, Bob outlined a suggested priority list for projects in and around the church.

Fr. Andrew expressed his immense thanks to Bob; he has done an absolutely phenomenal job as Junior Warden! Andrew offered a prayer of thanks and support for Bob.

Mike Austell shared the Senior Warden's report which was distributed to the Vestry and is available for review. Mike expressed his deep appreciation and thanks to Bob for all his hard work as Junior Warden, especially for his completion of the Reserve Study.

Fr. Andrew proposed the Vestry approve Marshall Culp as our new Junior Warden.

Mike Austell made a motion to choose Marshall Culp to serve as Junior Warden.

Buddy Fore seconded the motion.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew requested the Vestry approve a corporate resolution adding Marshall Culp as a person authorized to sign on the parish bank accounts.

Bob Finney made a motion with a second from Jill Storelli to approve this resolution.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Buddy Fore shared an update on the Tour of Homes.

The Patron Party will be held at Westglow, on a date to be determined. Suzanne and Billie will be sending an update on the tour to the congregation in about 2 weeks.

Fr. Andrew shared that he has asked Lynn Searfoss, Jill Storelli, and the other members of the team who are working on the outdoor Stations of the Cross project to meet with him and hopefully with Kathy Beach to give a status update.

Mike Austell shared the allocations endorsed by the Outreach committee this month:

Watauga Housing Trust	\$2500.00	affordable housing initiative
Student from Gaza	\$1,000.00	to assist in moving his wife and child
Ukrainian Refugee Family	\$ 476.04	propane

Total \$3976.04

Note:

The contribution to the student will be paid not directly to him, but to an agency assisting him; the propane bill will be paid directly to the fuel company.

Mike Austell made a motion to approve these donations endorsed by the Outreach committee.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Wrap Up Time:

What did we accomplish?

Recognized Bob Finney's great work as Junior Warden and expressed our thanks

Selected Marshall Culp as the new Junior Warden

Reviewed the Vestry Covenant

Fr. Andrew reported our monthly minutes are now archived on the website

Kept to our agenda and time allotted for each item of business

Jill Storelli made a motion with a second from Bob Finney to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm.

The Vestry approved the motion.

Fr. Andrew closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Sudderth, Clerk of the Vestry