



Vestry Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2025
6:00 p.m.
St John's Cathedral

Call to Order: 6 pm

Members Present: John Bass, Donna Walker Bell, Martha Cox, Glenn Guiler, Paige Hakimian Lewis Hunt, Patrick Kimball, Lisa McKenna, Laura Jane Pittman, Louis Russo, Shane Williams

Members Absent: John Erstling, Adam Smith

Others Present: John Sefton, Subchancellor; Paul Arrington, Treasurer

Clergy and Staff Present: The Very Rev. Kate M. Carroll, Dean; Megan Cochran, Parish Administrator

Quorum: Yes

Opening Devotion: Lewis Hunt read A Psalm to the Wind of Heaven, from Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim by Edward Hayes

Moment of Gratitude: Patrick Kimball is grateful to all the volunteers who so enthusiastically helped clean the cathedral on the clean up day. Martha Cox expressed gratitude for Tom and Linda O'Dell for stepping in to assist while Dean Kate was on sabbatical. Cox also thanked Paul Arrington for accepting the role of Treasurer. Lewis Hunt thanked Donna and Tony Bell for all their years of service. Paul Arrington expressed gratitude for Dean Kate being back.

Approval of Minutes: After reviewing the minutes from the June 2025 meeting, there being no meeting in July, Martha Cox motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Glenn Guiler seconded. All members present approved.

Financial Report: Shane Williams presented the financial reports for the year ending 7/31/25.

- Revenue and Expenses are trending well
- Pledges did not decline over the summer
- Revenue looks low because we did not receive the budgeted \$103,000 from the Plummer Foundation. Rather, they dissolved the foundation and gifted the cathedral \$3,761,620 that will be invested as an endowment that will generate roughly the same amount of income each year as the grant had.
- The Legacy Endowment and the Hellen Ingram Plummer Foundation Endowment funds will be moving to Episcopal Church Foundation accounts for investing soon.
- The Plummer Foundation funds are currently sitting in a non earning account waiting to be invested once the 501c3 designation is final.
 - Shane Williams motioned to authorize the Finance Committee to move the funds from a non-earning account to an interfi account until they can be invested. Glenn Guiler seconded.

2024 Audit: The 2024 audit is almost complete. Once the Audit Committee approves the 2024 audit, it will be shared with all Vestry members to approve via digital vote.

Endowments Update: John Sefton asked members to sign consent and amendment forms to clarify language in the articles of incorporation of both the Legacy and Plummer Foundation endowments to expedite 501c3 designation, stating that they will only be used on missions of the cathedral. The Plummer Foundation Endowment will be slightly more liberal in its use than the Preservation Fund, which can only be used for preservation and maintenance of the main campus. The Legacy Endowment will be used for church operations.

CD-J Property Update: John Sefton reported that CDJ closed on purchase of the Methodist parking lot on Duval St. He will provide further updates and timelines on a potential buyer when able.

CAP Report, Nominee Approval and Bylaws Changes: John Bass has been Vestry Liaison on the CAP Board of Directors for two years. CAP serves 768 students at title 1 schools in Duval county and has received national recognition from the Kennedy Center and the Getty Museum. As government grants get cut, fundraising is more important than ever. CAP is asking that the vestry ratify bylaw changes that would allow them to increase their board of directors to 45 members to expand fundraising capabilities and additional community engagement.

- Patrick Kimball moved to approve the bylaw changes and Martha Cox seconded. All members present voted in favor.
- Glenn Guiler moved to approve Nominees Marty Florentino, Michelle Hair and Laurin Tilbrook. Patrick Kimball seconded. All members present voted in favor.

Council Reports:

- **Center for Wellbeing-** Louis Russo has finalized five strategic goals with forty objectives to guide the mission over the next 3 years. Paige Hakimian noted the Center is reaching people beyond our walls.
- **Formation –** no report
- **Outreach –** Glenn Guiler reported there will be a pet food drive September through October 5, 2025. Hunger Fight will be back on October 26, 2025.
- **Parish Engagement-** Laura Jane Pittman let members know Together Again Sunday will be celebratory. The council is updating new offerings.
- **Pastoral Care-** Lewis Hunt reported that chaplains and eucharistic visitors are highly trained and very dedicated lay people who want to serve.
- **Properties-** Patrick Kimball reported that Building Solutions will be doing a facilities audit in September and will present their findings in or before November. This will assist with long term planning and budgeting. The cathedral is in the process of having IT assessments and are working towards updated policies and systems. Donor funded upgrades to Taliaferro Hall are being explored by a diverse group of parishioners and people outside the cathedral.
- **Stewardship and Development-** the Pledge campaign theme is One Body Many Gifts and will be celebrated with home parties at parishioner and clergy homes.
- **Worship, Music and Arts-** Donna Walker Bell reported the new music season kicks off on September 14 with a piano recital and reception at 4 pm. A Jr. Acolyte program is in the works.

Sr. Warden's Report: Martha Cox introduced Paul Arrington and motioned that the Vestry approve him as treasurer. Patrick Kimball seconded and all voted in favor. Cox and Arrington are both on the Bishop Search Committee. Cox encouraged vestry members to apply for other related committees as well. In September the vestry will launch their own nominating committee to identify candidates for the next class of vestry members. Focal points of the search process will be: 1. What talents/expertise are we looking to fill? 2. Who can provide this? 3. Incorporating sessions to gather nominees and parishioners to engage.

Dean's Report: Dean Kate is grateful for the opportunity to go on sabbatical and take time to write and pray, to be with family and to enjoy a silent retreat. She is looking to provide a course that is an introduction to silence so people can better hear God and rest in peace. The Homelessness Commission is very busy and services are not well funded. She is working with hospice and others to possibly create a hospice center for the homeless so they do not have to die alone.

There being no more business to address, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Megan Cochran