



Vestry Meeting Minutes- Draft
January 22, 2026
6:00 p.m.
St John's Cathedral

Call to Order: 6 pm

Members Present: John Bass, Martha Cox, John Erstling, Glenn Guiler, T.R. Hainline, Lewis Hunt, Patrick Kimball, Lisa McKenna, Louis Russo

Members Absent: Paige Hakimian, Laura Jane Pittman, Adam Smith

Others Present: John Sefton, Chancellor

Clergy and Staff Present: The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll, Dean; The Rev. Canon Mark Anderson, Vicar; Megan Cochran, Parish Administrator

Quorum: Yes

Opening Devotion: Martha Cox read a devotion from Jesus Calling

Moment of Gratitude: Lisa McKenna expressed gratitude for Marissa Lingaitis's support of the Cancer Support Group. Louis Russo is grateful to Martha Cox, Shane Williams and Patrick Kimball for finding and hiring Building Solutions, the company that performed the facilities audit. Martha Cox is grateful to St. Mark's, Bishop Curry and Bishop Young for their presence and service at Bishop Frank Cervený's funeral.

Approval of Minutes: Upon review of the December 18, 2025 meeting minutes, Martha Cox motioned to approve, and John Bass seconded. All present voted to approve the 12/18/25 minutes.

Financial Report: Shane Williams updated the Vestry on the preliminary end of year financials through December 31, 2025.

- Pledge contributions came in strong in December, helping to balance increased costs over the year.
- \$55k that was budgeted but not transferred into the Preservation Reserve from the Preservation Fund will be moved to be used for future facilities needs.

2026 Budget:

- Operational support to the Bookstore has been added as they work to become self-sustaining.
- Dot West funds are still helping to support the gospel music program
- Each time we receive a payment from the sale of the nursing home, 10% is set aside as a tithe. This year, \$33k will be tithed to the Center for Wellbeing to help fund an administrator for the center.
- The cost of staff benefits has risen significantly this year.
- More money has been built into the children's programming budget to support the need for hiring paraprofessionals to assist our neurodivergent children, and continued training in best practices.
- Dan Hadwin's estate gift and final proceeds from the sale of the nursing home are being invested in a quasi-endowment with ECF.
- \$120k is included for replacing the Lexan on the windows around the church and will be offset by donations for the project.
- The facilities budget is based on figures from the BSX facilities audit.
- This year only \$50k is budgeted to be drawn from Unrestricted Reserves, down from up to \$300k in previous years, reflecting improved financial management.
- After review of the 2026 budget, Martha Cox motioned to approve the budget and John Bass seconded. All present voted to approve.

By Law Amendments: John Sefton amended the bylaws to allow for slate elections for delegates and delegate alternates, as was done for the vestry. Also, the requirement that the chair of the Sanctuary Guild be on the

nominating committee has been removed. [*When that requirement was added, it was because women were not allowed to be ordained or sit on the vestry, and the Sanctuary Guild could only be run by a woman, therefore, the chairwoman was required to provide a woman's perspective on the nominating process. Today, we have women clergy and women on the Vestry, making this requirement unnecessary.*]

- Martha Cox motioned to approve the amendments and Shane Williams seconded. All present voted to approve.

Council Reports

- **CAP:** Ten students who play in the Cathedral Arts Project String Orchestra ensemble, took first place at the Crescendo International Music Competition audition round, and will be heading to Carnegie Hall in New York to compete in the winner's recital on February 1st. CAP has been asked to present again at the Kennedy Center on how they use data to expand access to arts education for students who otherwise would not have that access.
- **CFW:** A Learn to Meditate class and an Intro to Wellbeing class have just begun. The Leadership team is evaluating priorities to best use the \$33k in the budget for administrative help.
- **Outreach:** The DESC clothing drive has been hugely successful. More Family Promise volunteers are needed for host weeks.
- **Properties:** Building Solutions presented their findings to members of the Vestry, Finance Committee and Properties Committee on January 13, 2026. They identified 91 items that will need repair or replacement over the next 5 years with HVAC system improvements identified as a priority to lower utility costs and preserve the current infrastructure from premature wear and tear. Fund raising will be needed for this HVAC work to be completed in the next year. The report's projected costs are only for capital projects and do not include staff, utilities or insurance. There will be a substantial jump in costs in 2027 as significant items are due for replacement or repair.
- **Stewardship and Development:** Due to phenomenal generosity, the 2026 pledge drive reached its goal. The council is working on creating policies to build our endowments, researching best practices regarding named endowment thresholds and policies for handling unexpected/unrestricted gifts, and will prepare recommendations for the Finance Committee.
- **Worship, Music and Arts:** Donna Walker Bell has stepped down as chair after moving and Melody Hainline will take over moving forward.

Senior Warden's Report: Martha Cox expressed deep gratitude to Lisa McKenna and Lewis Hunt who are rolling off the Vestry this month. McKenna served for six faithful years through many challenges, including three years as Junior Warden. Her continued service with the Cancer Support Group is an inspiration to all. The Pastoral Care Council has been transformed under Hunt's leadership during his tenure on the vestry. He has crafted a source of care and love and provided the clergy with assurance that their flock is being well cared for by the chaplains.

Vicar's Report: The finance and stewardship policies will create a safety net for the cathedral for generations to come. The Finance Committee and Vestry will be working with the Bookstore leadership to grow revenue and increase long term viability. We are trying out big changes with the annual meeting to create more opportunity for community and relationship building while still delivering details that people expect from the annual meeting.

Dean's Report: The vestry will have a strategic planning retreat on February 7. EPN will be held in Charlotte this year and the vestry is invited to attend. The Cathedral has been asked to host an Interfaith Iftar Dinner on February 26, and Vestry members are encouraged to represent the cathedral as volunteer hosts and table discussion participants. The Think Tanks are producing action beyond the conversations, which is exciting.

Other: Steve Busey has officially passed the title of Chancellor to John Sefton.

Closing Prayer: 7:15 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Megan Cochran