Minutes for Vestry Meeting on August 26, 2026_Approved

Voting Members Present: JoAnne Lehman, Senior Warden; Andy Porter, Junior Warden; Judy Mills; Janet Martin; Tim O'Shea; Kevin Featherson-Crowe; David Johnson; John Thompson; Karen Evans-Romaine
Also Present: Mthr. Lynne Carver, Associate Priest for Worship and Pastoral Care; Jeff Ocwieja, Clerk; Dennis Lloyd, Treasurer

Absent: none

Guests: Henry Peters, Wayne Vander Zanden.

Agenda Items

Opening Prayer: (open meeting begins at 6:30 pm) Given by David.

Approval of Agenda: No changes. **Janet moves to approve. David seconds. Unanimously adopted.**

July 2026 Minutes: One additional change noted. **Tim moves to adapt as changed. Andy seconds. Unanimously adopted.**

Discussion and approval of July financials: Presentation by Dennis. Expenses are significantly less than we budgeted, so in very good shape. Discussion of the value of building in as an "asset," the actual value is $4 million, so that will be updated. Discussion of long term investments, certain endowments are "unchanged" from previous month because there is a new reporting system and thus, data is not updated- it is not the case that they didn't increase in value. John asks if the value of building corresponds to "real estate" value? Dennis says it's the insurance value, not an appraisal. City doesn't do an assessment because we don't pay taxes. David asks about insurance expenditure, there's a particularly heavy payment for building in July; Dennis explains we don't get a "monthly" bill, it just comes when it comes (i.e., it is "lumpy"). **David moves to approve. Janet seconds. Unanimously adopted.**

Voices from the Parish: Wayne Vander Zanden present. No specific business.

Proposal for donation from Newell House proceeds to Own It: Presentation by JoAnne. Information about a donation was included in the bulletin. At the last meeting, we discussed an amount. Leanne Puglielli suggests that we approve an amount that would cover a particular number of "grants." Used to be approx $15k. Per family. Judy has learned that it is now $19k. JoAnne would still like to give enough for three down payments - i.e., $57k. This would be an "unrestricted gift," but it would at least "represent" three, "even" down payments. **JoAnne moves to approve $57,000 as an unrestricted gift to OwnIt. Karen seconds.** John thinks it's a good idea, although concedes he doesn't know a lot about OwnIt. JoAnne says that we have a "long standing" commitment to help OwnIt. Andy asks how many

families OwnIt has assisted; JoAnne believes about 30 families. Judy clarifies it is 34 families (as of very recently). Judy isn't opposed to the amount, but concerned that that amount is much higher than what was discussed in the bulletin. JoAnne clarifies that a generic 10% was proposed in the bulletin, not a specific dollar amount. Janet asks if there's a threshold dollar amount for which we *need* parish approval; consensus that the answer is no. Tim shares it might be perceived as a "bait and switch." JoAnne believes that we "put it out there" and got no comments apart from one (that asked for a higher amount). Consensus that when we explain this decision, we should explain how this is the functional equivalent of three down payments. Tim wonders if why we shouldn't place a restriction on the gift if our goal is for it to go specifically toward down payments? JoAnne shares that when we previously made a gift, OwnIt asked that it be "unrestricted," we don't want to "tie their hands," we want to "trust this organization." Can still say that it "represents" three down payments. Karen wonders if we should publish our decision in the bulletin and solicit more feedback before giving the actual gift. JoAnne isn't sure what that would look like. Karen clarifies that we just express the amount and adjust if we get negative feedback. Andy is concerned that if we do that and it results in less money being donated, that would create *worse* feedback. Dennis shares that we have been "blessed" with a large amount of money from the sale, we just need to decide what "narrative" we adopt with this gift (i.e., a "tithe?" an amount equal to three down payments?, etc.), also this doesn't have to be the last time we donate to OwnIt, i.e., this is the "first" donation but there may be more. Henry shares that this is the Vestry's responsibility, we aren't "obligated" to lay things out before every decision. JoAnne shares that we can just donate $42k and invite further discussion. Janet shares that that will be a "long discussion" like the Newell House sale, if people disagree, they will "participate" in changing the Vestry's "direction" moving forward. Mthr. Lynne thinks as long as the decision is explained, that is fine. **Unanimously adopted (donate $57,000).**

Stewardship campaign/pledge drive: Presentation by JoAnne. We need to get this year's campaign off the ground soon. Willing to be a part of that, but hoping for some Vestry volunteers to "dig in" with JoAnne. The national church's theme is "plenty good room," doesn't really like it, seems like cultural appropriation. Would prefer to adopt our own theme, although we can use their resources as examples/samples for our own campaign. Tim asks what the time line is? JoAnne hopes to meet in the next two weeks, and actually launch the campaign by the beginning of October 2026. Might be worth having speakers at services like last year. Will hopefully have results in time to share at the annual meeting (which is in November 2026).

Search committee update**:** (enters closed session at 7:26 pm - only non-Vestry member permitted to remain is Henry) (as a result of closed session, a candidate was called by the Vestry) (exited closed session at 8:14 pm)

The vestry voted unanimously to call the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller as the next rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Reports:

Associate Priest: See report.

Senior Warden: See report.

Junior Warden: See report.

Vestry Liaison: See report.

Items for the Good of the Parish: (open meeting concludes at 8:17 pm)

Eucharist