Cathedral Church of St. Paul
Vestry Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2026 – 5 p.m.

Present in Commons Room:, The Very Rev. Greta Getlein, Dean and Rector, Karl Fandrich, Junior Warden, Miriam Burns, Peter Henne, Barrie Montross, Jenny Sisk, Rose Bacon, Clerk
Present via Zoom:
Vestry Members:, Mac Onuigbo
Absent: Marley Skiff, Senior Warden, Taylor Wallace, Treasurer, Kenzo An, Shannon Williamson

The meeting began at 5:04 p.m. For the opening reflection, Jenny shared a poem taken from Wendell Berry's 2009 Sabbath Poems. The text of this poem is included at the end of these meeting minutes.

The September reflection will be presented by Miriam.

June 2026 Meeting Minutes
The June 2026 Vestry meeting minutes were reviewed. After discussion, a motion to accept the June 2026 meeting minutes was made by Miriam. Jen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

June 2026 Financial Reports
The June Treasurer's Report and monthly Operations Manager Summary were emailed to Vestry members by Jennifer Sumner on July 15th .

Greta noted:

The investments did very well in the second quarter.

There were no unexpected expenses in July.

On Page 2 of the Balance Sheet:

1. The Thorpe Bequest shows a negative balance of $115.07. Purchases for the first Last Sunday Lunch went a bit overbudget. There are nonperishable food items left over which will be used for the July Last Sunday Lunch. This negative balance will clear in the third quarter.

2. The SPY Canon Formation Payroll shows a negative balance of $3,558.80. This amount will be taken out of the Thompson Bequest to clear this balance.

On Page 2 of the Income and Expense Statement:

1. Under the Part Time Staff section there is a line item for a part time middle school coordinator. Nickie Morris and Ashley Bolger have volunteered their

time to cover this role; no monies were paid this year. This category will not be included in the 2027 budget.

To date, no distribution has been taken from the main endowment; a distribution will be needed in July.

After discussion, Barrie made a motion to accept the June 2026 Treasurer's Report as submitted; Miriam seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Last Sunday Lunch Support
Greta noted the menu for the Last Sunday Lunch for July will be meatball subs. This will use up the remaining frozen meatballs and sauce from May.

The August Last Sunday Lunch coincides with the Bishop's Visitation. For that meeting sandwiches will be ordered.

Invitations by Greta to members of the congregation have continued as part of the weekly church service announcements and in the Enews requesting assistance with the Last Sunday Lunches. The assistance needs include: shopping for food items, set up, getting lunch started as the service ends, and clean up at the end. It is hoped the volunteer base can be broadened to continue this monthly effort.

Greta also noted a new refrigerator has been purchased for the parish hall kitchen and is scheduled to arrive in the coming week.

Convention Resolution regarding Diocesan Assessment
Greta spoke with the Vestry regarding the anticipated increase in our diocesan assessment caused by the substantial increase in employee health care costs. Greta reminded the Vestry the diocesan assessment is based on "normal operating expenses". These expenses include, but are not limited to, utilities, supplies, and staff payroll and benefits (health insurance and pension). The diocese calculates the assessment on a tiered level system. St. Paul's diocesan assessment is in the highest assessment tier of 16% of the normal operating expenses. In the current assessment scenario, with the large increase in health insurance costs, parishes will also experience a higher assessment amount. St. Paul's and other parishes are seeking relief from the diocesan assessment increase generated by health care costs. A resolution has been prepared for consideration at Diocesan Convention to address this concern. The resolution requests the ability to deduct the cost of employee health care from the normal operating expenses before the annual assessment is calculated. A copy of the proposed resolution is attached to these minutes.

Greta reported she is one of several sponsors of this resolution. She asked the Vestry if they would also like to be a resolution sponsor. After discussion, Miriam made a motion that the St. Paul's Vestry be added as one of the sponsors for this resolution; Jen seconded the motion. With a quorum of the Vestry present, the vote was five (5) members in favor and one (1) abstention. The motion carried.

2027 Budget – First Pass
Greta noted the first pass of the 2027 budget had been emailed to the Vestry by Jennifer Sumner on July 14, 2026. The assumptions made in preparing this first pass are listed in detail on the cover email. Vestry members are asked to review this budget and bring feedback to the next meeting.

Stewardship Campaign Chairpersons
Greta noted Shannon has agreed to serve as Co-Chairperson for the 2027 Stewardship Campaign; another person is needed to serve with her. The responsibilities of the chairpersons of the stewardship campaign include:

- Determining the campaign "theme" (can use the annual theme as provided by TENS).
- Developing a campaign logo/choosing a campaign hymn
- Writing a letter to the congregation explaining the theme/soliciting annual pledges
- Finding parishioners to speak at services sharing why providing financial support to St. Paul's is important/why they pledge

Peter said he would help but does not wish to be co-chairperson. If anyone feels called to help in the role as co-chairperson, let Greta know.

Sunday School Coordinator
Greta announced that Holly Rees will be the new Sunday School Coordinator. She will begin her duties in August.

Bishop's Visitation/Vestry Zoom Meeting with Bishop Shannon
Bishop Shannon will have an official "visitation" at St. Paul's on Sunday, August 30. Bishop Shannon will preside and preach at the service. She will also hold a "forum" after the service where parishioners can "ask me anything".

As part of the visitation process, Bishop Shannon has requested a meeting with the Vestry. This meeting will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, August 25th at 6:30 p.m. Rose will send reminders to Vestry members as there is no Vestry meeting scheduled for August.

Other Business

Redevelopment Updates
The Vestry went into Executive Session to receive an update on the work of the Redevelopment Task Force.

Montross Family Move
Barrie announced she and John are moving to Topsom, Maine to be closer to family. The move will take place in late August – early September. Barry stated it was a pleasure and honor to be part of the Vestry and that the departure is very bittersweet.

The Vestry expressed their great appreciation to both Barrie and John for their numerous contributions to St. Paul's over the years, as well as gratitude for Barrie's specific contributions as a Vestry member.

Greta offered a closing prayer.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jenny and seconded by Miriam. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Next Vestry Meeting – Thursday, September 17, 2026, at 5 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose J. Bacon
Clerk of the Vestry

At the end of a long time
the bookkeeper sits down with his book.
He enters all that he has learned
of suffering, grief, and ugliness,
of cruelty, waste, and loss,
stupidity, meanness, falsehood,
selfishness, loneliness, and greed.
He reckons all these as a great
weight he has no way of weighing.
He enters then all he has learned
of joy, goodness, beauty, love,
of generosity, grace, and laughter,
good sense, honesty, compassion,
mercy, and forgiveness.
And these also weigh an unweighable
weight that registers only
on his heart. He cannot at last
complete and close the book.
He cannot say of evil and good
which outweighs the other,
though he feels his time's rage
for quantification, and he would like
to know. He only can suppose
the things of goodness, the most
momentary, are in themselves
so whole, so bright as to redeem
the darkness and trouble of the world
though we set it all afire.
"Maybe," the bookkeeper says. "Maybe."
For he knows that in a time
gone mad for certainty, "maybe"
gives room to live and move and be.

--Wendell Berry