

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm - Thursday, February 19, 2026

 Attendees	Yes	Zoom	No
Anne Styx	x		
Teri Tucci	x		
Chris Francis		x	
Charles Bopp	x		
Madie Redfern			x
David Schilling		x	
Chris Whitehead			x

Opening Prayer

Fr. Bryan

Welcome New Vestry Members

Fr. Bryan welcomed Charles Bopp & Chris Whitehead to the Vestry.

Prior Meeting Minute Approval (*action*)

Madie Redfern

David Schilling moves to accept the minutes. Anne Styx seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries and the minutes are approved.

Annual Meeting Minute Approval (*action*)

Madie Redfern

Teri Tucci moves to accept the minutes. Charles Bopp seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries and the minutes are approved.

Financials

Chris Francis

- January 2025 Treasurer's Report (*action*)

Chris Francis presented the January Treasurer's report. Discussion of the best way to convey offering progress in the weekly bulletins was prompted by a major pledge being paid in full for the year, giving an artificially inflated impression (at a glance). Chris Whitehead reminded us all to have faith that God will help meet our needs. Anne Styx moves to accept the minutes. David Schilling seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries and the January treasurer's report is approved.

The group will revisit the format of the offering progress blurb for February's updated numbers.

Vestry Roles and Expectations

Fr. Bryan reviewed the Vestry Expectations (2026) document with the group and asked for comments and suggestions as we move into the new Vestry session.

Chris Whitehead observed that not all are gifted with the same type of leadership and pastoral talents, and that it may not be reasonable to expect pastoral care from every person. After discussion, Fr. Bryan updated the language to reflect that Vestry members should serve as a BRIDGE to pastoral resources for parishioners. Chris Whitehead proposed that we establish someone to be in charge of a sub-group or committee of folks who are particularly suited to providing pastoral care within our community.

Fr. Bryan also requested that we add Counting the Sunday Collection at least once per month to the list of responsibilities of each Vestry member.

We discussed item #10, the requirement to volunteer to lead a committee or program within the church, and decided that this year, this requirement does not make sense. Instead, the group agreed to remove this item as a requirement, but to add to the March agenda the topic of what committees do we need at Grace, how do we want to organize them, how will we communicate to the congregation, etc.

Fr. Bryan proposed shifting to the standing agenda items to review the previous meeting minutes, etc., to a consensus agenda format, which will speed up the meetings a bit, unless discussion is warranted.

We discussed whether there's interest in setting a hard limit on the length of meetings, and the consensus was that we will keep a loose eye on timeframes, but not set a hard rule.

We agreed to add a rule about respecting confidentiality in matters of pastoral care, finance, and other sensitive matters.

Counting the collections should not happen in the sacristy any longer, and instead those counting should bring the funds downstairs to Fr. Bryan's office to complete the count. It can be brought down in the collection basket.

Fr. Bryan reviewed the schedule of upcoming collection dates and people in the group signed up for different dates they are available.

Anne Styx moves to accept the updated Vestry Expectations for 2026. Charles Bopp seconds. All in favor. None opposed. Motion carries and the expectations are approved.

New Church Software

We need to update the church directory, which is out of date. Fr. Bryan is proposing one of two options:

- A low-cost digital church directory from a service designed just for this, web-based. \$10/month (<https://www.instantchurchdirectory.com>)

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- A church management software that has a monthly fee of \$35/month for up to 250 names (<https://www.churchtrac.com>)
 - There are some benefits to this, but in some ways it is overkill for our current needs.
 - If and when we outgrow the low-cost Instant Church Directory option, it would be complicated to transition to a different system all over again.

The group discussed the challenges of printed directories, security of online directories, keeping the list accurate and up to date, and what our best path forward might be.

Fr. Bryan mentioned another church he knows that uses Slack in place of shared contact information as an “outside the box” idea.

Fr. Bryan will share a link to ChurchTrac if anyone would like to test the demo that Lauren has running. We will make this decision in the near future.

Rector's Report

Fr. Bryan

- Lent
 - Dinner Groups
 - Prayer Education Sessions
 - Would anyone like to plan other activities?
- Children's Ministry
 - Two teens volunteered to cover the nursery every other week.
- Outreach
 - Barb and Ruth chair a committee dedicated to serving the community, and have historically referred to this as “outreach” but these activities are more aligned with the description “Service” so the committee will be renamed.
 - Bryan is looking forward to Outreach opportunities expanding, to build our connection to the New Lenox community. He is working with a contact at the New Lenox Public Library, and we'll continue to host events like movie nights, Trunk or Treat, Puzzle nights, and other activities to boost awareness of Grace in the community.
- Buildings and Grounds
 - We have a Building & Grounds committee with 5 members, with no one person planning to take a defined leadership role.

Pastoral Care

- Persons to be Mindful of (*closed*)

A positive update on a parishioner was shared by Fr. Bryan.
Other concerns were shared.

Closing Prayer

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 19, 2025 at 6:30pm

IMPORTANT DATES

Sun. March 15, 2026	TVC Pancake Breakfast	8:00am-12:30pm
March 29-April 4, 2026	Holy Week	Specific service times TBD
Sun. April 5, 2026	Easter	8:00am and 10:30am services

BRYAN AWAY DATES

None

CLOSING PRAYER & DISMISSAL - VESTRY MEETINGS

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night. Give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake.
Amen.

Pause for Intercessions may be offered silently or aloud.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.