

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Meeting Minutes

6:30 pm - Thursday, May 21, 2026

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

Opening Prayer

Prior Meeting Minute Approval (*action*)

Madie Redfern

David moves to approve the April meeting minutes. Teri seconds. All approved, none opposed, motion carries.

Financials

Chris Francis

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

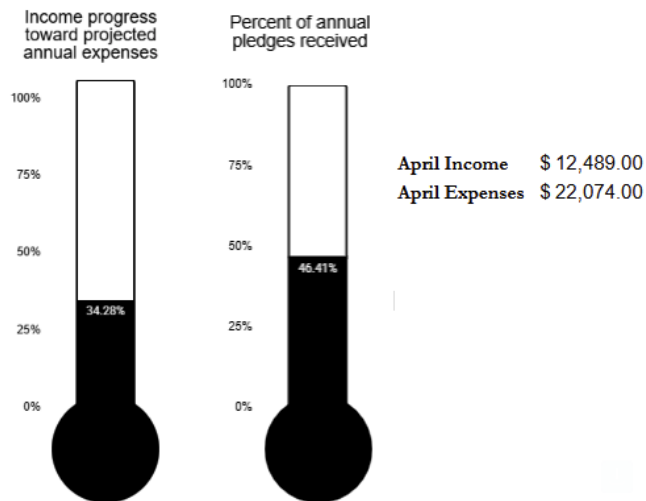
Chris Francis presented the April Treasurer's report. The group discussed possible reasons for higher than expected utility costs, including market pressures, inaccurate forecasting based on previous bills being based on single occupancy, or other possibilities. Fr. Bryan wants to review the individual bills to make sure there's nothing indicating a maintenance need (like a leaking pipe), but otherwise we'll continue to monitor.

Chris noted small discrepancies in FSA funding and health care costs, but he'll investigate whether there are any significant concerns. For now, the discrepancies in projections v. actual costs are minor.

David made a motion to approve the April Treasurer's report as presented. Teri seconds. All approved, none opposed, motion carries.

- New Grace Notes Blurb

Chris and Fr. Bryan reviewed the new Grace Notes blurb format as discussed in the separate meeting on April 30th. The group discussed the benefits of sharing information with the members, both about our projected costs v. actual expenses, and about our project pledges v. actual collections. The Vestry thanked Chris for his work on this additional task.



Committee Reports

- Grace in Action

The Grace in Action Committee has planned an upcoming drive for personal hygiene products, including feminine hygiene products and shaving supplies to share with local food pantries as their next organized effort.

- Buildings and Grounds
 - HVAC Contract Update

Fr. Bryan shared numbers relating to our current HVAC Service contract, including a recent estimate that was significantly out of range for the normal and customary charges for the task, and an inability to provide an itemized breakdown that explained the unexpectedly high quote. Lauren and Fr. Bryan did research on comparable service companies and their costs for similar services, and the Building and Grounds committee would like to convene to review other bids from HVAC service companies that would be more in line with Grace's needs and more affordable, with the transparency we desire.

Teri made a motion to terminate the Premistar contract and empower the Buildings and Grounds committee to explore bids from new service companies that may be a better fit for Grace's budget and service needs. David seconded. All approved, none opposed, motion carries.

Filling Vestry Vacancy

Fr. Bryan took the opportunity to express gratitude for Chris Whitehead's longstanding role in the Grace community, only culminating in her recent Vestry term. She was loved, was an important part of our community for many years, and will be deeply missed.

Fr. Bryan noted that without Chris, the current makeup of the Vestry is below the minimum number required per Grace's bylaws. Anne, Teri, David, and Fr. Bryan shared that based on previous conversations, we believe that Jackie Menella (in attendance) would be a good fit for the open Vestry position if she were willing to serve, and Jackie confirmed that she would be honored to serve if asked.

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Fr. Bryan suggests that we make an announcement to the congregation and allow a period of two weeks where members of the congregation have the opportunity to vote on Jackie's addition to the Vestry. We will have paper ballots and an online option available. We will coordinate this voting period with the vote for delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

Delegates for Diocesan Convention

Fr. Bryan shared that the convention will be held Tuesday November 10th and Saturday November 14th, in person, in Rockford, IL. Ideally we can confirm the delegates who wish to attend and they can be presented for a confirmation vote to the congregation at the same time as Jackie's presentation for Vestry.

Collection Counting Schedule

Fr. Bryan requested again that all Vestry members sign up for at least one Sunday morning per month. We agreed that Jackie would be fine to begin helping with collection counting, and confirmed that everyone is signed up and all dates are covered until our next Vestry meeting.

Rector's Report

- Friday Fellowship

Fr. Bryan reviewed feedback on the recent Puzzle Night and Mario Kart event. The next event will be June 19th, which will be a S'Mores Night with firepits on the back lawn. Fr. Bryan mentioned that it's extremely helpful to have a secondary person to help organize, set up, and clean up for each of these events. Teri covered the Mario Kart event, and Anne covered the Puzzle Night. Bryan asked the other members of the Vestry for volunteers, and David volunteered to help with the S'mores event. Jackie reminded the group of best practices for keeping the event friendly to those with food allergies.

- Liturgical Scheduling

Fr. Bryan updated the group on the scheduling process for readers, ushers, and an upcoming training is scheduled for acolytes. The idea is to have a clear schedule so that people aren't scrambling to decide the morning of the service who will do what that day.

- Pride Mass

Fr. Bryan shared information about the pride mass on June 28th and discussed some of the activities that have taken place in the past and possible plans for this year's event. We will have the service inside. There will be a Pride Mass planning meeting on June 9th at 6pm during the standard liturgical planning session. During Pride Month, Allison has planned to offer a Bible study on Monday nights through the month of June about passages that have commonly been used to harm LGBTQ folks.

- Discovery Services in the Future

Fr. Bryan shared that the Discovery service seemed to be very well received, and he's exploring the best plan for moving forward with future Discovery services and how to schedule them. We may explore another service in the month of June and monitor feedback to see if monthly meetings are a good frequency.

Pastoral Care

- Persons to be Mindful of (*closed*)

Closing Prayer

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at 6:30pm

IMPORTANT DATES

Sat. June 6

Blood Drive 9:30am - 3:00pm

Fri. June 19
6:00pm - 8:00pm

S'mores Night

Sun. June 28

Pride Mass 10:30am

Mon.-Fri. July 20-24

9:00am-12:00pm

Vacation Bible School

Tue. Nov. 10 & Sat. Nov. 14
@ 6:30pm on Zoom

Diocesan Convention Nov. 10

9:00am-4:30pm in

Nov. 14 @

Rockford, IL

BRYAN AWAY DATES

July 30th

Family Camping Trip

August 17th-21st

Liturgy Retreat

September 6th
Anne Styx

Friend's Wedding

Morning Prayer Led by

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.

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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.