



All Saints Episcopal Church - Hilton Head Island, SC
Celebrating and Sharing God's Love for All
Our mission is to be a channel of God's love
Vestry ZOOM Meeting Minutes May 26, 2026 @7:00 pm

Present: the Reverend Denise Trogon, the Very Rev. Eric Bash, John Gilbert, Irene Pedersen, Anita Hill, Bobbie Helbig, Cristina Giroux, Ron Niclas, Bryce Edwards, Robin Pender, Scott Songer, Matthew Malok, Judy Cote, David Hay, Becky Forbes

Absent: Dana Duncan

1. Sr. Warden John Gilbert called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.
2. The Reverend Denise Trogon offered the opening prayer.
3. Remarks: Before the meeting started, Senior Warden John Gilbert told members present to anticipate moving into Executive Session at the end of the meeting to review Interim candidate hiring.
4. Approval of Minutes:
After a call for approval of the April 2026 minutes by John, ***Bryce Edwards moved, Cristina Giroux seconded, and the Vestry unanimously passed the aforementioned minutes.***
5. Book Study:
Ideas from Chapters 9 & 10 within *Strong Ground* were then reviewed. The Very Rev Eric Bash led the discussion, and Vestry members emphasized ideas especially within Chap.9, relating personal experiences that applied to concepts.
6. Finance Chair Ron Niclas inquired about the recording of two Vestry motions very recently passed on line. Chief Clerk Anita Hill indicated that she and John discussed the options earlier and deemed it appropriate to include the votes within this month's minutes. The two motions included:

Clergy Search Committee Budget:

Before expenditure can commence, the Finance Committee voted and ***the Vestry unanimously approved an estimated Search Committee budget, authorizing the Search Committee to spend up to the total amount without the need for piecemeal approval of each line item.*** The estimate is based upon past expenditures and current travel costs. This budget lists costs for travel and local hosting for up to four candidates who will be invited here to meet with Search Committee members and tour the church and surrounding community.

Two-Signature Check-Signing Requirement

To better facilitate the business of the church expeditiously, with its many transactions, the Finance Committee recommended and ***the Vestry approved raising the two-signature threshold of checks to \$2,500.00.*** Smaller amounts can thus be expedited quickly, without needing to wait for an out of town signatory to return home.

7. A Verbal Farewell

Since this is her last Vestry meeting as Rector, Denise was offered an opportunity for comment. She highlighted several things about the parish:

- “My heart and soul are with you, and I have confidence in this Vestry to carry things forward.”
- She emphasized and advocated that All Saints sense of community and parishioners connection to each other is a tradition that HAS to continue.
- She also said she was impressed with the abilities of the lay leadership and staff that have grown and developed over the years.
- Denise reminded all present that an important part of our mission is to embrace inclusion and outreach.
- Concluding, Denise said: I love you all and I wish for you God’s Blessings. My leaving is bittersweet. I’ll find out what life is like on the other side, taking one step at a time. Thank you for your tremendous commitment.
- John noted that we need to also thank those Vestry members who came before us and set us on this path.

8. Discussions

Capital Campaign Status

John said that the Capital Campaign has exceeded its goal.

- A decision of what to do with any residual funds after projects are complete and outreach programs have been funded will be made in the future. That decision could be to transfer remaining funds to the Foundation. But at this point, it is too early to predict amounts.

Stewardship Wrap Up & Concerns

- He then noted that though the 2026 dollar goal was not reached, this year’s total exceed last year’s giving amount. And for this, he said that we have Bryce and Dana to thank.
- Treasurer Becky Forbes noted that at this time of year the cash flow is typically strong. She reassured the Vestry that there is ample time to adjust for this shortfall. More will be known after after Interim search cost expenditures come in, clarifying any projections. She felt it was all manageable and the budget could be adjusted in the near future.
- Ron agreed with details of Becky’s comments, and felt there would be no problem. More cost information would be known after selection and acceptance by the candidate.
- To which, Christina inquired how an interim clergy’s compensation is determined. She was told by Denise and John that the diocese provides the minimum compensation guidelines of others in a similar position. A decision is then made within these guidelines of what to offer. A letter of

agreement is then drawn up, with a generalized time estimation; this has to be flexible for the next stage, seeking a new Rector.

Goals Discussion

- Cristina wanted to share a concerning conversation she had recently with a newer parishioner since it involved Goal 3 & 5. This individual said she was uncertain whether her family would be back in the fall because they had nothing in common with all of the older people in the congregation. She said they felt out of place; she also was disappointed that the youth group was not more engaged in the church.
- Startled, several Vestry members went into lengthy discussion of problems in retaining youth, uncertain whether there was fault within parishioners not being welcoming, or it was other influences.
- Eric asked that members step back and not take this action personally. "We need to maintain our identity as Episcopalians. It needs to be studied, but for right now, this topic should be sidelined."
- Denise agreed that this is a liturgical church first and that doesn't always fit the needs of some people. She said problems like this need planning, intention, and some digging into what families want.

Executive Session & Motion

John then indicated the Vestry would move into Executive Session to discuss the possible hiring of a recently interviewed Interim candidate. Denise and Eric then left the Zoom discussion; Becky Forbes also left later because her non-voting role on the Vestry. The discussion that followed was heated and lengthy.

During the Executive session, John suggested that a vote on the candidate be taken, ***Judy Cote moved and Matthew Malok seconded the motion to pursue negotiations with the present candidate considered in order to reach a letter of agreement for the Interim Rector position. The Vestry voted against the motion in a vote of 6 against and 5 for this candidate, so the motion failed.***

John explained that vote reconsideration is only possible if one or more persons on the prevailing side wishes to change their vote. No one did so; therefore, the Vestry decided not to proceed with this candidate based on several issues.

9. Adjournment: After a reminder that the next meeting would take place on June 23rd, led by a discussion of chaps 11&12 of Strong Ground, Bobbie Helbig moved and Cristina Giroux seconded a motion to adjourn; all agreed.
10. Scott Songer offered the closing prayer.
11. The meeting ended at 9:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Anita L.Hill
Vestry Chief Clerk

