Minutes of Vestry Meeting
September 16, 2025

Members present: Andy Durham, Eric Beam, Andrea Shiloh, Jeanne Sommerfeld, Tony Huffman, Libby Tsubai, David Villarreal, Ben Blanding, Patrick Humphreys, Gladys Valles, Samantha Rainman

Members absent: Lovette Browne

Officers present: Larry Laubach, Treasurer; Steve Lee, Assistant Treasurer

Offices absent: none

Clergy present: The Reverend Hannah Atkins Romero, Rector, The Reverend Maria Teresa Bautista-Berrios, Curate

Clergy absent:

Guests: none

After determining a quorum, the senior warden called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Property Status – The chillers are ready to be installed, September 22nd – September 26th. The church will be closed the entire week. The Chapel and the Archives are on their own system, so they will be cooled during installation. The Rectory HVAC system needs replacement. The quote is for around $25,000. We will shop around other quotes.

The first person to inspect the niche for the statue was not comfortable working so high. More people / vendors will be needed to do the inspection.

The restoration company has recommended work completed around the church including warming lights, gutter cleaning, vesting room walls, and roof access window.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Houston PRIDE Band – Practices have started on Wednesdays. No reported issues for the first two practices. They will be paying $1,000 / month for weekly use of the space.

Partners for Sacred Places – The rector and the senior warden met with the representatives from Partners for Sacred Places. The next meeting has been scheduled for January. Architects will come up with concepts that align with Trinity's desires. They will be operating with the assumption that the Bering House will be removed.

2026 Budgeting Process and Ministries input – The Treasurer is working on the 2026 Budget. The Treasurer and Senior Warden are asking for all of the Trinity Ministries to report their anticipated 2026 costs. The goal is to have the ministry heads submit their anticipated costs by the end of September. After everything has been submitted, the Finance Committee will move through the budget line-by-line. The goal is to have the first draft of the 2026 budget completed by the November Vestry meeting.

Nominations for new Vestry Members – It is the goal to have the nominations secured by the November Vestry meeting. The senior warden has reached out to some people, but the Vestry is encouraged to continue to actively look for potential Vestry members. Before approaching anyone, Vestry members should check with the rector that they are members of the church.

Report on Columbarium (Tony) – There have been continued issues with the faceplates for the Columbarium. The faceplates are made of limestone. We have found a local place that can provide limestone, and we have also found an engraver that can work with limestone. We are hopeful that we will not have continued issues.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Sabbatical Gratitude – The rector is appreciative of the opportunity to take and enjoy her sabbatical.

Vestry Workday Report (Follow-up) – The rector is going to invite some of the ministry heads to come meet with the Vestry soon. The Property Committee will consist of Eric Beam, Tony Huffman, David Villarreal, and x. The Stewardship Committee will consist of the rector, Andy Durham, x, x, x. The Administrative Committee will consist of Ben Blanding, Patrick Humphreys, and x. Andrea Shiloh, Jeanne Sommerfeld, Libby Tsubai, Gladys Valles, Samantha Rainman, Lovette Browne to be determined.

Episcopal Way and new members – We are going to be confirming and receiving a nice class of newcomers.

Ratification of Endowment Board Nominations – Ann McCoy and Richard Rathburn have been appointed as directors of the Endowment Board.

Staffing – We have an interview tomorrow with an organist and the search committee. The applicant will play on September 28th.

TREASURERS REPORT

August Revenue:	$	55,176.88
August Expenses:	$	96,730.01

Resolutions:

1. Motion Tony Huffman to approve the minutes of August 19, 2025, as presented; seconded by Andy Durham. Motion carried.
2. Motion by Andy Durham to approve the rector's appointments for the Endowment Board; seconded by Jeanne Sommerfeld. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Andy Durham to accept the gift of the baby grand piano from Bill Jones' estate; seconded by Tony Huffman. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Tony Huffman to move to closed session; seconded by David Villarreal. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Andy Durham to end closed session; seconded by Samantha Rainman. Motion carried.
6. Motion by Andy Durham to approve the position of Associate Rector effective July 1, 2026 as selected by the rector; seconded by Samantha Rainman. Motion carried.
7. Motion by Andy Durham to approve the Treasurer's Report for August 2025 as presented; seconded by David Villarreal. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM.
Minutes prepared by Ben Blanding