Minutes of Vestry Meeting
December 15, 2025

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

Members absent: Patrick Humphreys, Lovette Browne, David Villarreal

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

Offices absent:

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 6:34 PM.

The meeting was opened with prayer.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Property Status – The boilers in the church are not operating properly. The boiler was checked about a month ago and everything was fine at the time. The fence outside the Bering House has been vandalized. There are now two layers of fencing around the Bering House. One bike rack has been installed and there is another one if needed. The engineer that we had hired to inspect turned out to be fraudulent and the niche has still not been inspected. The junior warden is still pursuing options to confirm that the statue will fit in the niche. We have started replacing candelabras with LEDs. None of the upper lights have been replaced. Lights on the south side are in bad shape. Many are tipped over. Some flicker. Some are very dim. The circuit comes on but the lights likely need to be replaced by an electrician.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Vestry Candidates – Four people who have agreed, Catherine Guthrie, Tim Lawson, Amanda Talaat, and Ben Tallcott have agreed to run for Vestry. Samantha Rainman is going to run as Council Delegate and Jeanne Somerfeld will be the alternate. Libby Tsubai will serve as the Senior Warden in 2026. Eric Beam will continue to serve as the Junior Warden. Andrea Shiloh has volunteered to serve as the Membership Secretary.

Budget Status – The Finance Committee has submitted the 2026 Budget recommendation for Vestry review and approval in January 2026. The Senior Warden asked Vestry

members to review the proposed budget and submit questions, comments, and concerns regarding the budget prior to the January 2026 Vestry meeting.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Google Reviews – The rector has asked the Vestry members to leave a positive review on Google of the church.

Audio / Visual Upgrades – Paul has been looking at ways to upgrade our audio/visual system. We haven't made any investments in the audio/visual systems since COVID. Beginning January 1st, Paul is going to begin upgrading the equipment and our service will be live streamed on YouTube.

Office Administration Program – Base Camp is a product that two other churches our size use that we will begin using in 2026 to keep our office administrative materials organized. There will likely be a learning curve for the platform, but this will allow everything to be centrally located for all users. The cost is about $3,000 for 14 months of access and this will need to be included in the budget.

Diocese Conference Delegates – Samantha Rainman will serve as the delegate and Jeanne Somerfeld will serve as the alternate.

20 / 30 Group – The curate and Abby S. are kicking off the 20s and 30s group meeting. There are about 40 people on the invite list. The first meeting will be held at Axelrad.

Fotofest – Elmer Romero has an associate who was able to take photos at the El Salvadorian prison, C-COT and the exhibit will be shown at Fotofest which will take place during Lent.

Prayer Vigil at Federal Detention Center – There is a coalition of 15 churches that have shown up the Detention Centers to speak out against ICE in Houston. The team shows up on Wednesdays from 1:00 – 2:00 PM at the Detention Center.

Confidentiality – The previous incident concerning a staff member has been addressed.

TREASURERS REPORT

November Revenue:	$	49,635.50
November Expenses:	$	80,078.33

Resolutions:

1. Motion Tony Huffman to approve the minutes of November 18, 2025, Vestry meeting as presented; seconded by Andrea Shiloh. Motion carried.
2. Motion by Andy Durham to propose the slate of candidates to run for Vestry in 2026; seconded by Andrea Shiloh. Motion carried.

3. Motion by Andy Durham to move to closed session; seconded by Samantha Rainman. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Andy Durham to end closed session; seconded by Andrea Shiloh. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Andy Durham to approve the resolution for the housing allowance for the rector; seconded by Tony Huffman. Motion carried.
6. Motion by Andy Durham to approve the resolution for the housing allowance for the curate; seconded by Samantha Rainman. Motion carried.
7. Motion by Andy Durham to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2025 as presented; seconded by Andrea Shiloh. Motion carried.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.
Minutes prepared by Ben Blanding