

Grace Episcopal Cathedral
Minutes of the Vestry Meeting – August 19, 2025

Present: David Woods, Rick Backlund, LeRoy Dagg, Eva Jenkins, Vanessa Evans, Lawton Nuss, Steve Wolgast, Norman Nellis, Canon Jody Carroll

The meeting was called to order with prayer.

Opening Study: A continuation of the opening study by Rick Backlund on the Forward Day by Day reflection for June 14, 2025, written by The Rev. Sarah Shipman, Priest Associate. After two months for reflection, the vestry shared their answers to the questions provided.

Lawton Nuss call for messages to Evelyn Wilson: Lawton had the idea to collect messages from the various members of the Vestry to Evelyn Wilson. The vestry took a few minutes to do so.

June Minutes: Canon Jody Carroll suggested making these changes: 1) Sarah Shipman is no longer a Curate, but Priest Associate, and 2) The guest preacher is coming September 7th, not November 7th. A motion was made and seconded to approve the corrected June 2025 vestry minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jackie Sommers introduction and discernment process: Jackie introduced herself and told her story of discerning her call to become a deacon, her history with leading the Daughters of the King, and her spiritual journey in general. Canon Jody Carroll explained that she would potentially start school in January, and Jackie added that there is a series of steps as a nominee before starting school. The entire process takes approximately 5 years. LeRoy Dagg suggested gathering a lay committee to help with discernment.

After Jackie's exit, the vestry passed around the letter of recommendation and each member signed it as they deemed fit.

Financial Updates:

Treasurer's report: Lance was absent, so the Treasurer's report was tabled.

Independent Accountant's Report, Grace 2024: Canon Jody Carroll presented the accountant's findings, and discussion was tabled until later.

Discussion Items:

Livestream microphones: Arceile Ridgeway has requested reopening the conversation about livestream microphones. As a regular livestream viewer, she contends this is still an issue. Unable to understand the words being spoken responsively or the hymns sung.

LeRoy Dagg spoke about the pros and cons of adding more live mics, and pointed out that it's nearly impossible to mic the choir during the hymns. Canon Jody mentioned she might start asking parishioners when she visits them to administer the Eucharist.

Remembrance Service: The Cathedral has experienced the unexpected passing of a higher number of dear members, and Rick Backlund suggested having an Evensong during All Saints' to help with the grieving process.

Fire Chief invite idea: David Woods spoke to a former fire chief, Ty Christian, whose father was the fireman who came into Grace Cathedral. David suggested inviting the firemen and the firemen's families to the 50th post-fire anniversary service in order to recognize and thank them. Steve Wolgast also suggested contacting the architects and contractors who worked on the Cathedral after.

Vanessa Evans expressed thanks to Dean Torey for his job recommendation to Mother Doreen at St. David's, Topeka.

Canon's report: The soundboard and training is being provided by First United Methodist for World Communion Sunday. Stewardship is coming; Stewardship resources are available, including a webinar in September. More details to come in the September vestry meeting.

Dean's report: The dean was absent due to his ongoing vacation.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 19, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the Robyn Room.

— Respectfully submitted by Vanessa Evans, Vestry Recorder