

**St. Peter's Episcopal Church**  
**Vestry Regular Meeting – January 26, 2026**  
**AGENDA**

1. Adoption of Agenda

***Formation***

2. Order for Evening Prayer

***Discussion***

3. Approve New Foundation Trustee (*Peter Black*)
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Treasurer/Finance Report

***Action***

6. Approve Rector Housing Allowance Resolution
7. Reschedule February Vestry Meeting
8. Approve 2026 Budget

***Information***

9. Liaison Reports
10. Junior Warden Report
11. Senior Warden Report
12. Key Upcoming Dates:
  - a. Mtr. Sarah Minton Welcome – February 17<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 pm in Burns Hall
  - b. February Vestry Meeting – February (TBD) @ 5:30 pm in Room 201

## Minutes of the January Vestry Meeting January 26, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by **Senior Warden Ken Saitow**, followed by the opening prayer service.

**Laura Lee Skillman** moved, and **Diane LoCastro** seconded, the motion to approve the agenda for the January 26, 2026, Vestry meeting.

The thank-you note from **Rosemary and Gordon Hart** was shared and acknowledged.

**Foundation President Peter Black** proposed the nomination of **Troy Flanagan** for the St. Peter's Foundation. **Tracy Smythe** moved, and **Beth Thornton** seconded, the nomination of Troy for the Foundation. The motion passed unanimously.

### Minutes from the December meeting

**Diane LoCastro** asked to adjust the date of Coffee with the Vestry from January 28 to the correct date, January 25.

**Diane LoCastro** moved, and **Jim Carpenter** seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the December meeting, as amended.

### Treasurer and Financial Report

The materials are in the Vestry packet; **Connie McDaniel**, treasurer, began with the YTD analysis.

We finished the year with the largest December giving on record, more than \$175,000. For 2026, we have 155 pledges totaling \$746,000 — 20% more money pledged than in 2025, with fewer pledge units (but higher per-unit pledges).

Combined additional giving and lower expenses than estimated resulted in a lower differential between the budget and the year-end report.

### Rector Housing Allowance

The rector's housing allowance, which is primarily a taxation situation — moved by **Laura Lee Skillman** and seconded by **Tracy Smythe** — was approved for our new rector, **Sarah Minton**.

### Next Vestry Meeting

The date of the next Vestry Meeting has been moved from **February 23 to February 16** to ensure the rector's and senior warden's presence.

### Budget for 2026

The Vestry discussed the 2026 budget, including requests for increased funding for EfM, IDN, and nursery flooring. **Tracy Smythe** volunteered to try to source the nursery flooring outside of the budget.

The budget, as presented by **Connie McDaniel**, was amended to include an additional \$450 for EfM and \$1,500 for the Interfaith Dinner Network (IDN through the Outreach section of the budget).

**Diane Woodside** moved, and **Beth Thornton** seconded, the acceptance of the 2026 budget. After further discussion, the amended budget was approved.

## **Youth News**

**Tracy Smythe** announced that the Rector for Happening #156, April 17-19, is **Zatie Venditti**.

## **Junior Warden Report and Updates**

In addition to the report presented by **Jim Carpenter**, Jim announced that we have chosen a local firm for elevator maintenance. The local firm will increase inspections to 4x/year and save St. Peter's \$1,200/year under the new contract. Special thanks were offered to Mike Lewis for his investigation and negotiation.

## **Senior Warden's Report**

The annual meeting will be on March 4. While the wardens are due to step down at the annual meeting, they will remain until the end of May. Two people who will be filling the new Vestry roles will have a voice but no vote until the end of May, prior to which **Sarah Minton** will name new wardens.

One of the new Vestry members selected will have a two-year term (to fill **Jim Carpenter's** unexpired term), and will have voice but no vote until Jim retires from the Vestry. Four members will have a three-year term. One of those members will have a voice but no vote until **Ken Saitow** retires at the end of May.

On the matter of funding **Sarah Minton's** housing through a long-term loan, serving as a second mortgage (St. Peter's owning the first lien), it requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote of the Vestry, plus the trustees of the Foundation, plus the rector to move money out of the quasi-endowment fund, to be able to help fund the rector's new residence. To make it happen, the vote will be taken by email to enable a quick turnaround.

## **Belonging Beyond Differences**

**Ken Saitow** and other Vestry members received positive feedback on the presentation on Sunday. We expect a few dozen to participate on Wednesday, and Ken will bring the materials to the meeting.

One hiccup Ken wanted to address from Sunday was that a couple of people stood up to discuss previous conflicts. Ken noted that these sessions are not designed to "heal the hurt" but rather to know how to handle and mitigate pain around the next conflict that arises. Ken noted what we could have done differently in the moment, and also how we will have the opportunity to address some of the items in smaller groups.

## **Adjournment**

**Diane Woodside** moved, and **Beth Thornton** seconded the adjournment of the Vestry meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next Meeting: February 16, 2026; Room 201**

Recorded and Submitted by **Leigh Coulter Beal**, standing in for **Vestry clerk Annette Bell**