

**St. Michael's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting  
August 20th 2025  
6 pm -Parish House**

**Attendees: Reverend Dr. Rich Simpson (Interim Rector), Allison Martin (Senior Warden), Maryanne Ziegler (Junior Warden), Geoff Hopper (Treasurer), Deb Rude (Clerk), Keith Maloney, Cathy Winston, Shiloh Fallon**

**Regrets: Emerson Coldwell**

- 1. Call to Order- 6:02**
- 2. Prayer- Prayer for Transition**
  - a. Holy God, who knows our town and people intimately, look graciously on us and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek the next Rector for St. Michael's Church. Grant us wisdom and consideration for one another so we will be brave to our church's challenges, discerning its needs, and aligned with its hopes. Bless us, your people, with mutual trust and respect, openness of heart, and receptivity to joy as you, who have been faithful, continue to lead St. Michael's. We ask for all this in gratitude to our Lord Jesus Christ and the glory of your name. *Amen.***

**3. Vestry Vacancies- An update was sent to the Vestry on 8/17  
Two new Vestry members will be elected to fill upcoming vacancies. The Executive Committee has nominated Chris Condon and Elizabeth Miller. The Vestry will vote to approve the nominations at or before its next meeting.**

**Consent Agenda Approval**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**5. Treasurer's Report - The following items (a-c) can be found when opening the Treasurer's Report**

**a.Ordinary Expenses**

**b.Ordinary Income**

**c.Investment Performance**

**Investment Committee- Geoff updated the committee on the proposed merger of the Investment and Finance Committees. The Investment Committee, which previously had only three members, Rich Simpson, Janet Atkins, and Geoff Hopper, will now be without Janet, who has resigned. Geoff will inform the Vestry of the fall meeting date for the Investment meeting with Ropes Wealth Advisors, to which all Vestry members are invited.**

**6. Stewardship Update**

**Shiloh Fallon and Doug Miller are co-chairs of the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. They met with Rich before today's Vestry meeting. Their committee includes Jan Coates, Donna Giblin, and Missy Medina. The campaign will run for four weeks, starting in early October, and culminate with the ingathering Sunday in November. Diocesan resources and activities are being used. The theme for this year is Tell Out My Soul. A spaghetti supper, possibly on October 8, will help launch this year's campaign. Other important Sundays include:**

**September 21- Bishop's visit to receive and recommit SMC members.**

**September 29, celebrating the feast of St. Michael the Archangel.**

**October 5 - The Blessing of the Animals**

**Shiloh requested that the Vestry make an increased pledge commitment during the week of September 15.**

**7. Search Update -** Deb presented a brief PowerPoint to the Vestry, highlighting the process used to select the next Rector of SMC. She detailed the process from the initial selection of topics to the development of interview questions, all based on the essential qualities parishioners identified. During the scoring portion, the team used the Consensus Protocol to build cohesion. In this protocol, each team member shares one strength a candidate possesses that aligns with SMC's goals, continuing until all strengths are identified. Then, the group names any qualities that are in misalignment with the church's goals in the same fashion.

A strong, viable candidate and her spouse will visit Bristol on September 14-16. The Vestry is invited to the following events on Monday, September 15: A 10 am service at the Servicemen's Chapel and a dinner on September 15 at the DeWolf Restaurant. Deb will send out emails with the time of the dinner and requesting RSVPs to both events in early September.

**Interim Rector's Report -**Rich will conduct two classes this Fall:

- **Truth and Hope for a Perilous Age: Reflections on the Theological Work of Walter Brueggemann.** This will be held via Zoom on five Tuesday evenings beginning on September 16 at 7 pm. The August 22 E-Blast provides all five dates.
- **Rich and Allison will co-facilitate The Book of Revelation: All Creation's Hallelujah.** The class will run for 10 weeks at 11:45 am on Sunday mornings beginning on Sunday, September 28. Please refer to the E-blast for more details.

Vestry members read Chapter 7 in the Vestry Handbook and [Rich's transition advice](#).

When identifying helpful suggestions for a transition period, three topics were named:

- **Forming a Transition Committee-** Rich suggested that the Executive Committee select a team of 4-5 people. Vestry members were asked to send names of those who may be willing to serve in this capacity to a member of the Executive Committee.
- **Communicating with the new Rector about changes that may seem unfamiliar.**
- **A Vestry retreat with the new Rector**

**9. Senior Warden's Report -** Bishop's Brunch - September 21 - at 11:45 am at DeWolfs Geoff Hopper will not be able to attend. The other members indicated they will attend the brunch with the Bishop. Rich will be participating in the Vestry brunch.

**10. Junior Warden's Report-**

Maryanne updated the committee on the recent property work, which included the newly painted facade of the Tildesley Building and the removal of trees from the back of the church. In addition, she oversaw and communicated with the location director of a film who used the front of the church. SMC received \$1,500.

Two of the Tildesley properties are rented, with one more space available. An E-Blast will be sent to update the parish about the rentals. Looking Upwards organization is preparing to move in and is painting the space they will use. In addition, they asked if they could weed the Tildesley gardens.

**11. Update Building Bridges.** Cathy updated the committee on the successful launch of the Vets' lunch held on 8/19. Veterans' Lunch Update\_ part of the consent agenda. (sent out 8/19)

**12. AOB -**

**13. Adjournment- 7:38 pm**

**14. Lord, it is night.**

The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be.

**The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, and all dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray, Amen.**

**This is a reminder that all Vestry meetings are open to all parish members. If a parish member wishes to receive the minutes from the Vestry meeting, please contact Deb Rude, the Vestry Clerk.**