

St. Thomas' Vestry Meeting  
April 8, 2025  
5:00 pm

Present: Fr Paul Briggs, interim rector; Elizabeth Moran, senior warden; Terry Mello, treasurer; Anne Rogers-Popejoy, clerk.

Kelli McGuire, Haunani Wallace, Cheryl Reif, Gwen Prosser, Jacqueline Recht, Benjy Lowry, Ron Zdjoreski, Bill Freeman

The meeting opens in prayer.

**Haunani moves to approve the consent agenda, second Gwen.**

Welcome: Meeting opens with a discussion of what it feels like to be a visitor. Conclusions included the value of having not just ushers, but greeters, ideally outdoors. The group watched the "Invite Welcome Connect" promotional video and discussed the value of subscribing to program vs doing the work of welcoming on our own.

Terry shared new visitor cards to place in the pews, with an option to fill out the form online. The group shared feedback. The cards will replace the blue cards that are in the pews now, in time for Easter.

Bill Freeman, building and grounds chair, gave an update on the bell tower. In two weeks, the tower will be unwrapped, inspected, and then re-wrapped.

**Haunani motions to approve the expenditure of \$1500 from the Building Fund payable to Bragg Tree Service for the removal of the wrap on the tower. Second Gwen. Motion carries.**

Elizabeth suggests that we invite the chair/members of the Historic Resources Committee to see the tower while it is unwrapped. The group agrees.

**Kelli moves to accept a gift for designated purpose from Andrew and Elizabeth Moran to cover the cost of professional design, shrubbery, and installation of plantings on the Chestnut Street side of the church in 2025. Second Cheryl. Motion carries.**

**Benjy moves to accept an offer of a gift for designated purpose from Carlos and Terry Mello in the amount of \$5000 to replace fixed camera with PTZ camera (adjustable) and adding a second headset at a cost of \$3,345.91 (AV Systems of Maine proposal). The TV and stand cost \$1,202.86 – which includes all setup and delivery. Second Haunani. Motion carries.**

Bill Freeman reports on behalf of the Building & Grounds committee, largely regarding the spring housecleaning event.

Unfinished business:

- Offering count sign up
- Mugs for visitors?
  - Table for now, and strategize both gifts for newcomers and established congregants
- Stewardship: think of people who would be strong members of the committee
  - Legacy Giving: Fr Paul and Ron
- Separate/make a clear distinction between the Richard I. Thomas scholarship fund and the Sarah Davenport fund.
- Honoring Pat Ayers for her 50 (?) years of service on the altar guild.

Points to communicate the congregation:

- The vestry accepted donations for shrubbery along the building on Chestnut St and for tech upgrades to the livestream system. Funds established for gardens and AV, anyone can make a donation to these and upcoming projects.
- Tower update: unwrapping and inspection
- Spring Clean Up sign up.

8am - Elizabeth

10am - Jacqueline

The meeting closes in prayer at 6:45pm