

St. Thomas Vestry Meeting
November 11, 2025

Present: Fr Paul Briggs, interim rector; Br Donovan Bowley, junior warden; Anne Rogers-Popejoy, clerk; Haunani Wallace; Kelli McGuire; Jacqueline Recht.

On Zoom: Elizabeth Moran, senior warden; Cheryl Reif; Ron Zdjoreski

Fr Paul Briggs opens the meeting in prayer.

Donovan gives a recap of the business at Diocesan Convention.

Holy Cow consulting proposal discussion: recap the work done in 2023, which identified St. Thomas as a “paraclete” parish. Results included a call for transparency from the Vestry, which resulted in the monthly reports to the parish following meetings; as well as formation and physical facility goals.

Our consultant at HC proposes that we conduct the survey again, followed by small group interviews, and then conclude with a large presentation about the current state of the parish.

Fr Paul notes that the cost is significant, but is available in the discernment line item of the budget for both 2025 and 2026.

Stewardship: update from Cheryl Reif. 34 pledges totaling approximately \$150,000. The stewardship committee is satisfied with the results and hope that pledge numbers will continue to rise each year. Cheryl also thinks that we will continue to gather pledges and dollars. The committee is especially pleased with the engagement of the congregation via the ministry minutes, leaves in the sanctuary, and the pie social.

Outreach: George Johns is working with Bill Freeman to place his food pantry. The executive committee requested \$500 in funds to be allocated to the Camden Rockport School Alliance to distribute to families at the elementary and middle schools who have lost SNAP benefits. The stocking project is underway.

Organist Search: No significant updates. Lizzie Danchi continues to play the piano on Sundays and will cover Christmas Eve 4pm if we cannot secure an organist.

Nominations for Vestry and Diocesan Convention: Gwen and Jacqueline will term off; actively recruiting new candidates for Vestry. For convention, Fr Paul will talk with candidates. Discussion of representation on the current vestry follows.

Recap of parish bell tower meeting held last week. Consensus seems to be to repair the tower, but the decision of in what way remains.

Calendar:

Christmas: 4pm service with pageant, Rite 2; 10pm Rite 1 Candlelight. If we cannot find an organist, we will have one service at 4pm with Lizzie on piano.

Advent: One service at 9:30, Rite 1

Christmas: Rite 1 (Lessons & Carols will take the place of morning prayer)

Epiphany: Rite 2

Lent: Rite 1

Palm Sunday return to two services: 8am Rite 1, 10am Rite 2

Kelli makes a motion to allocate \$3000 to St. Thomas' Church from a member of a 12 Step program in October 2025 to be allocated to the Parker Laite Building Fund. Second, Haunani. Motion passes unanimously.

Haunani moves to accept the proposal to engage Holy Cow Consulting in further discernment and transition planning. Second Donovan. Discussion follows. Motion passes unanimously.

Reports to the parish: Kelli 10am; Donovan 8am.

1. Outreach continues to discuss ways to support food assistance for our community with strong support from the vestry.
2. Discussed results of the stewardship campaign; it's not too late to make a pledge.
3. Voted to engage Holy Cow Consulting for planning and transition work.

Meeting closes with prayers for our church and community, and with the Lord's Prayer.