

1 **Minutes of Meeting of Vestry of**  
2 **St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Inc.**  
3 **Date of Meeting: December 16, 2025**

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4 **Method of Meeting (i.e. virtual or in person): In Person**

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5 **Vestry Members:**

<b>Vestry Member Name:</b>	<b>P = Present A= Absent</b>
<b>Casteel, Matt</b>	A
<b>Clemmons, Sandy</b>	P
<b>Davis, Jeff</b>	P
<b>Enzor, Katie</b>	P
<b>Goodman, Ted</b>	P
<b>Green, David</b>	P (via Zoom at first, later arrived in person)
<b>Groutt, Dixie</b>	P
<b>Kropog, Jennifer</b>	P
<b>Nix, Kyle</b>	P (via Zoom)
<b>Peek, Scott</b>	P
<b>Smith, Ione</b>	P (via Zoom)
<b>Sullivan, Barbara</b>	P
<b>Zoll, Mark</b>	Previously resigned

6  
7 **Clergy Present:**

8 Dr. Blaess  
9 Rev. Whitnah Deacon  
10 Josh Wilson **Others**

11 **Present:**

12 Don Whitfield  
13 David Rowe (via Zoom)  
14 Ashley Heren  
15 Delia Goodman  
16 Charles Goodman

17 **Kristine opened the meeting by asking the Vestry to list various matters the members want**  
18 **to Celebrate.**

- 19 a. Sandy identified the quarterly contacts as a celebration  
20 b. Kyle said that the Children's ministry has been built up  
21 c. Scott identified that we brought Josh Wilson into the Parish.

- 22 d. Dixie said the success of the worship teams working to build the third service
- 23 e. David Green said the music director search had been successful.
- 24 f. Barbara identified getting the Sonshine Group up and running and the support that brings
- 25 for special needs families
- 26 g. Dixie said Kim Baumann and Newt Molloy starting the Evening Prayer service

27 **Kristine then asked the Vestry to list the items that are in process**

- 28 a. Dixie said educating the parish about the need for flower dedications at various services
- 29 a. The flower guild does not have the funding it used to have
- 30 b. Free Will / Planned Giving and getting people to update their contact information with
- 31 the Church
- 32 c. A separate Stewardship Website has been added (this is not a part of the Free Will)

33 **Kristine then asked the Vestry to identify items that should be goals for next year**

- 34 a. Sandy said Training more people to be catechists (Sandy said we definitely need
- 35 more)
- 36 i. A challenge is that to become a trained catechists takes 40 hours of training
- 37 and there are very few people in the United States who are qualified to
- 38 train new catechists so arranging for training by those few people can be
- 39 very challenging.
- 40 b. Ted suggested looking at alternative Sunday School Options with lower barriers
- 41 to entry to become a trained instructor
- 42 c. Ted said installation of a playground

43 **Michael** then led the vestry in prayer.

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44 **The Agenda was approved unanimously. (Motion to approve by Dixie, Seconded by Scott.**

45 **Unanimous).**

46 **The Minutes of the last meeting were approved unanimously. (Motion to approve by 47**

47 **Jennifer, Seconded by Barbara).**

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49 **Financial Report (Don Whitfield):**

50 We finished off budget for November. We missed the budget by \$3,000. We received a large gift

51 in November of \$15,000 which was almost enough to cover the cost of installing a new coil for

52 the HVAC system. However, \$2,500 of that was designated for the flower guild.

53 We have a favorable variance YTD of \$80,000

54 We had budgeted for a \$30,000 loss the year but we are likely to do much better than that. We are

55 ahead of pledges through November but that makes December uncertain as to what we can

56 expect to receive in the month of December.

57 We are negative for the month for the JR's property because we had to pay income taxes this

58 month (which was expected).

59 Our cash reserves are getting built up by people making advance payments on their pledges for  
60 next year.

61 Motion to approve by Jeff, second by Dixie. Unanimous.

62 **Clergy Housing Allowance Tax Allocation For the Year 2026:**

63 **Kristine's** is Forty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$43,800). (This information was  
64 provided in vestry meeting.

65 **Michael** [This information was not provided at the meeting, but was announced it would be  
66 emailed to the Clerk to be included in the minutes later. The amount emailed to the Clerk Was  
67 Twenty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$28,800). At the 1.20.2026 meeting, this  
68 amount was amended to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000.00).

69 **Josh** [This information was not provided at the meeting, but was announced it would be e-mailed  
70 to the Clerk to be included in the minutes later. The amount emailed to the Clerk Was Two  
71 Thousand Four Hundred Nine and 27/100 Dollars (\$2,409.27). At the 1.20.2026 meeting, this  
72 amount was amended to Twenty-Eight Thousand Nine Hundred Eleven and 24/100 Dollars  
73 (\$28,911.24).

74 **Motion to Approve by: Sandy, Seconded by Barbara.** Votes in favor: NINE YES. TWO (Katie  
75 & Ted) voted **NO** because the numbers had not been provided to the Vestry and therefore the Vestry  
76 could not vote to approve an amount without knowing the amount.

77 **Vestry Nominations:**

78 Sandy announced the following slate of Vestry Candidates:

79 Suzanne Hebden  
80 Kim Baumann  
81 Buce Fahnestock  
82 Lisa Rhea  
83 Lynn Miller

84

85 Vestry slate carried by unanimous vote.

86 **Ione** asked if a small budget of five hundred dollars (\$500) allocated for the quarterly meetings of  
87 the Sonshine Support Group. Don said that could be just requested from Don and he would build  
88 it into the plan for next year.

89 **Clergy Reports:**

90 **Josh:**

- 91 a. Monday last week they met and formed the initial task force to complete the survey  
92 required for the *Made to Flourish* grant.  
93 b. They are working to figure out how that will proceed  
94 c. For Youth, this spring they will be focusing on prayer. In lent they will be helping to  
95 develop the concept of the Christian Tradition of Service.

- 96 a. Josh said we have about **nine** participants each Sunday night, at the beginning of  
97 program year (August) it was about **Fifteen**  
98 b. Michael stated there tends to be a similar natural attrition during October and early  
99 November.  
100 d. They will be building a military chaplaincy program. Josh was up at Fort Campbell  
101 working on that this most recent weekend with a unit from Nashville.

102 **Michael** said we can celebrate the 40-45 people who met each of the eleven weeks of Alpha  
103 and all of the Alpha Core Teams who worked so hard to make that happen. The goal for next  
104 year is to identify and apprentice future Alpha leaders. St. Paul's relationship with First Baptist  
105 on Castle Street continues to flourish. First Baptist is doing great work in its classes for daily  
106 living as a Christian in a variety of subjects ranging from gardening to finance to first time  
107 home ownership, and other projects.

108 **Kristine** announced some upcoming meeting dates for the Vestry and the annual meeting

109 Kristine announced Executive Session. In response to questions about the purpose of the Executive  
110 Session, Kristine stated the purpose was to discuss the process for authorizing "outside of budget  
111 requests by staff members." A request from the Music Director to fund an out-of-state Glee Club's  
112 visit to St. Paul's had been emailed to the Vestry at 12:42 PM on December 16, 2025 (the day of  
113 the Vestry Meeting).

114 Motion by Sandy to go into executive session, Seconded by David Green.

115 Ted and Kristine debated as to whether these matters were appropriate for executive session.  
116 Following extensive discussion, Kristine stated she would consult with the Bishop and report back  
117 to the Vestry on what she learned. Kristine said it may be necessary to conduct a special called  
118 Vestry Meeting. Kristine stated she had concerns about discussing staff, personnel, and other  
119 matters in a public vestry meeting.

120 Ashley Heren and Ted Goodman expressed concern about the concept of St. Paul's paying to bring  
121 in the Spelman Glee Club given what Ashley and Ted believe to be a lack of funding for children's  
122 ministries, children's music programs, and a failure to purchase equipment for these ministries, the  
123 lack of a handicap door, and other basic needs.

124 Kristine is going to find out: (a) can we go into executive session; (b) when can we go into  
125 executive session; (c) what are the parameters of executive session; and (d) what can be done at  
126 executive session. Kristine will also ask Cannon to the Ordinary about special called vestry  
127 meetings.

128 Following Discussion, Sandy and David withdrew the motion to go into executive session. No  
129 Executive Session was held.

130 On December 18, 2025, Kristine emailed the Vestry and reported as follows:

131 Dear Vestry members,

132 As promised, I reached out to Bishop Bauerschmidt, and we had a positive  
133 conversation yesterday morning. He and I are comfortable with how we as a Vestry  
134 function. I remain optimistic about our path forward for this and future vestries and

135 the important mission of St. Paul's. As such, no special called meeting is necessary  
136 – the items for our consideration can wait until our regularly scheduled meeting on  
137 January 20. An update on the proposed Spelman Glee Club concert: Our Director  
138 of Music Sean Vogt has decided to withdraw the proposal for this year since the  
139 Spelman choir director needs to firm up their schedule.

140 Yours in Christ,

141 Kristine+

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143 **Motion to Adjourn by Sandy, Second by Jeff, 10 yes, 1 no.**

Respectfully submitted,



Theodore W. Goodman  
Clerk of the Vestry