

St. Francis Episcopal Church
July 15, 2025 Vestry Meeting

The Vestry convened in person on Tuesday, July 15, 2025, at 7:30 p.m., Fr. Mark presiding. Members attending: Ms. Byam, Ms. Davis, Mr. Hunter, Ms. Hurdle, Ms. Oleson, Mr. Ruf, Dr. Schneider, Mr. Tester, and Ms. Warren. Also attending: Mr. Hough and Mr. Smith.

Invocation

Fr. Mark led the invocation.

Bible Study

Ms. Oleson led the Bible Study on Psalm 19:14. This psalm tells us the Lord is always with us when we have difficult times in our lives, and we put our trust in God as our rock and redeemer.

Consent Agenda

Approval of the Minutes of the May 20, 2025 Vestry Meeting

Rector's Report

Zion Church

Ms. Hurdle said things are going well with Zion Church. Zion Church is planning a barbecue later in the summer.

Vacation Bible School

The Vestry had a general discussion on how successful the Vacation Bible School was with approximately 70 children and 40 adults participating in this week-long event, which was a joint project of Zion and St. Francis.

Property Maintenance

Fr. Mark said the heavy rainstorm on Sunday, July 13 resulted in flooding in the Undercroft, but he and his son Peter were able to remove the water quickly, and there was no damage. Some of the lay reader vestments got wet, but they could be washed and dried with no damage. The flooding would have been much worse if a malfunctioning electric outlet that powered the sump pump had not been repaired a few days earlier. A de-humidifier and fans were placed in the undercroft to remove the moisture from areas that had flooded.

The Vestry discussed adding safety netting and child-proofing on the indoor stairway in the Church. Father Mark promised to follow up and report back.

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Dr. Schneider made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hurdle to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

Motion to Move to Executive Session

Dr. Schneider made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hurdle, to move to Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

The Vestry and Fr. Mark entered into an Executive Session to discuss sensitive matters.

Motion to End the Executive Session

Ms. Warren made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hurdle, to close the executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

The Executive Session having closed, the Vestry and Fr. Mark returned to regular order.

Senior Warden

Ms. Tendall resigned last week as senior warden, and Mr. Ruf volunteered to fill this position.

Motion to Elect Mr. Ruf as Senior Warden

Fr. Mark nominated Mr. Ruf to serve as senior warden, seconded by Ms. Warren. The motion carried unanimously.

Parish Administrator

Ms. Nanan having resigned as parish administrator earlier in June, Fr. Mark asked the Vestry to review his recommendation to hire Mr. Preston Cherouny to fill the vacant parish administrator position, as of January 1, 2026. Fr. Mark provided Mr. Cherouny's resume and discussed his qualifications with the Vestry, who agreed that he is well qualified. The Vestry also agreed with Fr. Mark's request to increase Mr. Cherouny's total salary and benefits to \$75,000 per year, with allocations of benefits to be determined after further discussion with him.

Fr. Mark said that if Mr. Cherouny accepts the position, he intended to hire Mr. Chesley Hurdle to serve as interim parish administrator for the remainder of 2025. He would be paid at the same rate as Ms. Nanan

Motion to Adjust the Compensation of the permanent Parish Administrator

Mr. Ruf made a motion, seconded by Ms. Davis, to increase the total compensation for the parish administrator position to \$75,000, effective January 1, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

Savvy Seniors

Ms. Warren said the recent Savvy Senior meeting went well. She hopes there will be funding the fellowship budget for a catered Christmas lunch for the group.

Parking Lot Restriping

Dr. Schneider said the parking lot spaces would be restriped on Saturday, July 19 by members of Boy Scout Troop 773, led by Carter Jillings. This will be Carter's Eagle Scout Project.

Garden Grounds

Ms. Byam said the garden area near the parking lot would be reconfigured, with additional planting by the Scouts on July 19.

Sunday School

Ms. Davis is meeting with Ms. Hermann to discuss the Sunday School planning.

HVAC

Dr. Schneider said the second phase of our HVAC work is nearing completion.

Finances

Mr. Tester, church treasurer, said pledges totaled \$331,000, a decrease of \$26,000 in comparison to 2024. Shifting to a different accountant resulted in a \$43,000 decrease in administrative expense since than last year. This decrease has resulted in a budget surplus so far this year. Operating income was up by \$97,000 compared to 2024 due to three Employee Retention Tax Credit payments this year and the lease payments from Zion Church.

Motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hunter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruf to approve the July 2025 treasurer's report. The motion carried unanimously.

Basketball Courts

Dr. Schneider said the basketball courts Georgetown Hill Early Childhood uses need various improvements. The vestry discussed this and related uses for the courts, and possibilities for different surfaces. He is obtaining bids and will report back on progress at the next verstry meeting.

Sunday Announcements

Fr. Mark agreed to discuss the changes in vestry leadership - Ms. Tendall's resignation as senior warden and Mr. Ruf's election to fill this vacancy, as well as the plans for staffing the parish administrator position, and issues related to his leadership with the congregation on Sunday, July 20. Mr. Ruf also agreed to address the congregation at the same service. Ms. Hurdle will assist with messaging related to these matters.

Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Tester made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruf to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Fr. Mark led the Vestry in the closing prayer:

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

Les Smith
Clerk