

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2025

Members of the Vestry Present

Marissa Cheplick (2028)

Yetunde Laniran (2026) Jr. Warden

Jennifer Traeger (2028)

Kevin Walsh (2026) Co-Sr. Warden, Rector's Advisor

Stephen Weeks (2027)

Jennifer Yeast (2026)

Clergy Present

The Rev. Martin Elfert

Others Present

Charles McGee, Co-Sr. Warden, Meeting Chair

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

Members of the Vestry and Clergy Absent

Xander Almeider (2028)

Roosevelt Carter (2026)

Martha Humphrey (2027)

Nora McLaughlin (2027)

The Rev. Liz Klein

The Rev. Lara Halsey

1. Formation

1.1 Opening

- The meeting began at 12:07 pm.

2. Items

2.1 Property Management

- Martin led a discussion about Grace property management and the need to find a new school year tenant once PHAME has moved to their new location, and revised use for the Halsey house after Lara and Schuyler have moved to their new home. He has talked to several groups who might be interested in using the portions of the campus and noted Grace Institute (GI) is also involved in the discussion. As a first step towards renting the two houses, Martin would like a motion from the Vestry to have a building inspector inspect both houses and provide recommendations for a fee of \$1,150. Yetunde moved that building inspector Lee Selleck be retained to inspect Grace's two houses and advise us on improvements. After reviewing the inspector's recommendations, we will begin a conversation about house improvements and possible rental. Jennifer Y. seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed.
- The kiln will need to be moved from the basement of the house where it is currently located, and using a Tuff Shed for the kiln was suggested. The shed might be placed in the parking lot where there are currently irises.
- Martin is having preliminary talks with developers regarding the affordable housing project.
- Martin added that the City of Portland might be interested in using the Parish Hall as an overnight shelter. More information is needed and a special Vestry meeting called for further discussion.

2.2 Grace Gala 2025

- The Gala Committee has asked that the Vestry not donate a basket as baskets have not proved to be very profitable, and the committee would like to redirect their energy. Yetunde said the committee is meeting next week to discuss alternatives for ministry donations and cash donations are a possibility. After some discussion, the Vestry decided cash contributions should be sent anonymously for a Vestry gift and could be either a check sent to Nick or an online donation, noting the donation is for the Vestry Gala gift. The importance of donation receipts was noted, and Yetunde will check they are being provided.
- Martin encouraged Vestry members to bring guests to the Gala.

2.3 Finance Committee Report

- Marissa said the report just sent out to the Vestry is accurate and is shown in the new table format the Finance Committee has developed. Both revenue and expenses are below budget, but expenses are still exceeding revenue.

- A new chair is needed for the Finance Committee as Roosevelt is ready to step aside. A possible candidate was suggested and urged to talk with both Roosevelt and Nick about what is required.

2.4 Consent Agenda

- Charles asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the July meeting. There were no corrections, and Yetunde made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Stephen seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the minutes were approved as presented.

2.5 New Business

- Yetunde suggested a future discussion as to whether revision is needed for the current system in which rent is received from GI and a grant from the Grace Foundation is given to GI for rent.

2.9 Closing Prayer

- Martin offered a closing prayer, and Charles adjourned the meeting at 1:06pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk