

Grace Memorial Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2026

Members of the Vestry Present

Kirstin Greene (2029)

Martha Humphrey (2027)

Shannon Jones (2-year, 2028)

Yetunde Laniran (2029)

Nora McLaughlin (2027) Co-Sr. Warden, Rector's Advisor

Kathleen Park-Lindsay (2029)

André Pruitt (2029)

Jennifer Traeger (2028)

Stephen Weeks (2027) Co-Sr. Warden, Meeting Chair

Clergy Present

The Rev. Martin Elfert

The Rev. Lara Halsey

Others Present

Beckie Lee, Family Promise Chair

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk

Members of the Vestry and Clergy Absent

Marissa Cheplick (2028), Treasurer

1. Formation

1.1 Opening

- The meeting was called to order at 12:01pm by Stephen.

2. Items

2.1 Moment of Grace

- Jennifer shared a thoughtful reflection on humility from The Final Frontier by Brian Doyle.

2.2 Roses

- Yetunde shared a thorn, which was finding the courtyard gate left open at times when it should have been closed. She urged everyone to be aware of the gate and close it, if appropriate, for security reasons. Martha offered a rose for the acolyte group, which is growing, and she appreciated those willing to serve at a moment's notice. Martin had a brief reflection on Gale Beagle's recent death; he said Gale could be both incredibly kind and incredibly cruel and hopes his kindness will shine in resurrection. He also noted the death of Bob Leverenz who he said was always fantastic.

2.3 Family Promise Meeting with Beckie Lee, Chair

- Martin introduced Beckie, the Chair of Family Promise and fellow Canadian, adding that all Canadians know one another. Family Promise is collaborating with Grace for use of the 2 campus houses. Beckie shared the background of the Family Promise National Organization, which has over 200 chapters. The local chapter in Portland started 6 years ago. The local chapter is run by its own Board of Directors but is part of a network providing resources. She explained the structure of the organization and the housing provided. Community of Christ church has a day shelter for families and other local churches, as well as Community of Christ, offer rotating overnight accommodations. 60 families have been served so far and several hundred are on the wait list. Shannon contributed information from her own research on Family Promise on behalf of the Vestry. The 2 houses at Grace would be the first static shelter in the area, and the rotational shelters will continue to operate. The power of stability, offered by static shelters, was stressed. Static shelters help families move quickly into permanent housing, and there was discussion regarding how families are assisted into permanent housing. The hope is to have 3 to 6 families in each house (depending on family size) with the goal of a 90-day maximum stay. A case manager will be assigned to the houses. Families in the program cannot be in an active addiction or abusive situation, and there is a no pet policy. A family is defined as an adult with at least 1 youth under the age of 18. Safety and security protocols will be established, and Family Promise is in the process of visiting other static sites to learn from their experiences. The hope of Family Promise is to have families in the houses in December. The revenue stream for Grace would begin when families are in the houses. Grace will not be operating the site; Family Promise will be the operator. The need to make clear Grace's commitment with Family

Promise was stressed. Beckie went on to say the Home Building Foundation has been providing repairs to both houses and much work has already been done. Grace Art Camp will continue to have use of some of the spaces in the houses, and eligible children in residence during Art Camp will be offered scholarships to Art Camp. Volunteers from the parish will be welcomed, and training as well as background checks will be provided. Opportunities will be developed as the program progresses. Beckie concluded by thanking the Vestry for being open to the Family Promise program.

- A meeting of the Vestry with the Executive Director of Family Promise, Seth Truby, is next part of the process. An update for the parish about Family Promise will be offered at the next State of Grace meeting, which is scheduled for May 17. A guest from Family Promise is also expected to attend.

2.4 Consent Agenda

- The March 29 Minutes, Rector's Report, Shannon's report on Family Promise conversations, reports on the ministries, and the Treasurer's financial report are the Consent Agenda items. André moved the Consent Agenda be approved as presented, and Kirstin seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion was approved.

2.5 Kitchen Upgrade Report

- Stephen thanked Yetunde for all her work on the kitchen upgrade project and asked that the Vestry approve the kitchen package as presented to the Vestry. The possibility of changes in the future was noted, but approval is needed now by the Vestry for the project to move ahead. The Finance Committee has already approved the expenditure. There was a brief discussion about the package. Shannon moved to approve the kitchen upgrade proposal as presented, and André seconded the motion. There was an additional brief discussion followed by a vote to approve the motion.

2.6 State of Grace on May 17

- Nora said the plan for the State of Grace on May 17 is to discuss Family Promise and also provide updates of the kitchen upgrade project and the parish's financial situation. Hopefully, a representative from Family Promise will also address questions and concerns.

2.7 Schwab One Account

- Nora reported signatory updates are needed for the Schwab One Account and presented the following motion:

I move that we update our Schwab One account by removing Avril Johnson, Daniel Heuval, Sara Fraser, and Warren Burkholder Jr as authorized individuals, and by adding Marissa Cheplick as an authorized individual.

Kirstin seconded the motion, and a discussion followed. After the discussion, the motion was approved.

2.8 Adjournment

- As the meeting had reached the end of its scheduled time, Stephen said he will roll the remaining agenda items into the next Vestry meeting. Martin offered a blessing, and Stephen adjourned the meeting at 1:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Perkins Lehrle, Clerk