



## St. John's Episcopal Church

3 Cross Street, P.O. Box 422, Essex, Connecticut 06426

(860) 767 8095

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### **DRAFT Vestry Meeting Minutes**

**Date & Time:** May 20, 2026  
6:30 P.M.

**Location:** St. John's and via Zoom

**Members:** The Reverend Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas,  
Rector, Wesley Henry, Warden, Jan  
Perruccio, Warden, John Rogers,  
Treasurer, Peter Holland, Clerk, Lois  
Blood Bennett, Linda Board, Pam du  
Pont, , Leigh Dorrington, Chip  
Goodrich, Donna Moeller, Jane Riggio,  
Kevin Walsh

**Regrets:** Tony Custodio

**Agenda Item #**

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| 1. | <p><b>Opening Prayer and Reflection</b></p> <p>The meeting convened at 6:30.</p> <p>We discussed a passage from Acts 9</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2. | <p><b>Consent Agenda</b></p> <p>Jan detailed the consent agenda including the agenda for this meeting. Rev. Elaine added a discussion of the potential for a historic district designation in the Village of Essex. A motion passed unanimously to accept the consent agenda including the modification proposed by Rev. Elaine. The agenda is attached.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3. | <p><b>Rector's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rev. Elaine recently attended a productive meeting with other church leaders within our diocese.</li> <li>● The church will be purchasing and mounting the Episcopal Church flag.</li> <li>● The signage for the gender-neutral facilities will be moved to the restrooms in the undercroft during large events to better accommodate high demand on the main level.</li> <li>● Members of the parish have regrettably been subject to an email scam. The scam, and how to avoid being scammed, will be part of the Sunday announcements and a training session will be scheduled.</li> <li>● The St. John's Socials program for home-based gatherings is off to a strong start.</li> </ul> |

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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An event will be held at the church on Sunday, June 7 at 4:00 to welcome newcomers. Vestry members are invited to help facilitate introductions and connections to our ministries.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 4. | <p>Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● John reported that our financial performance is as anticipated and on track with 2025 results.</li> <li>● We discussed the need for an improved budgeting, approval, expenditure and impact accounting process for outreach.</li> <li>● Our review financial audit has been completed and will be made available to the vestry for review and approval.</li> <li>● Two gifts to the parish in the approximate total of \$70,000 were approved by the vestry.</li> <li>● We discussed planned giving at some length and efforts in this regard need to be informed by our work at the upcoming retreat. John is hoping to secure a chair for a legacy committee.</li> <li>● Similarly, we will require a chair for the upcoming stewardship effort and hopefully a creative member with a background in communication and marketing.</li> </ul> <p>A motion was made and passed with unanimous approval to accept the treasurer's report. A copy is attached.</p> |

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| 5. | <p>Wardens' Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wesley expressed his appreciation for condolences and support following the recent death of his father.</li> <li>● Jan commented on the excellent start to St. John's Socials.</li> <li>● Jan is looking forward to attending a Friday, June 12 meeting organized by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to discuss a proposed historic designation of the Village of Essex.</li> <li>● She was excited by the Rev. Spellers' book and looks forward to a discussing it at our June 13 retreat.</li> <li>● She asked vestry members to be involved with the upcoming listening sessions and counseled us to be careful listeners.</li> <li>● We had an initial discussion regarding the proposed historic district designation and the consequences for St. John's. Following the June 12 SHPO meeting, we will be better able to have an informed conversation.</li> </ul> |
| 6. | <p><b>General Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Upcoming Retreat</li> </ul> <p>The retreat is scheduled for June 12 with dinner at the Rector's home and an all-day event on June 13 at Mercy by the Sea in Madison.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|           | <p>Rev. Elaine asked that each of us provide our priorities for the retreat utilizing a matrix of suggested topics. Various ideas were advanced at the meeting and Rev. Elaine and Wesley will provide us with a Google form (or alternative) to indicate our preferences. Evangelism, discipleship, community, growth and a practice of generosity were among the suggestions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sound attenuation in the parish hall</li> </ul> <p>Pam du Pont provided us with a thorough presentation on the topic. Based on her due diligence, she recommended that acoustical panels, painted to match the ceiling and walls, be installed on the ceiling of the parish hall to mitigate a long-standing noise level problem. Her analysis and generosity were acknowledged. The need to have design drawings was stressed. A motion passed to proceed with the project with one dissenting vote. A plaque acknowledging Pam will be displayed in the parish hall.</p> |
| <b>7.</b> | <p><b>New Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rev. Elaine reminded us of upcoming events and services and of the importance of the vestry retreat.</li> <li>● Chip announced that he and Peter have drafted revisions to the bylaws, though there are a few pending items that will require discussion and guidance from the vestry.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>8.</b> | <p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 8:25 following a closing prayer.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

