



St. John's Episcopal Church

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

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DRAFT Vestry Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: June 16, 2026
6:30 P.M.

Agenda Item:

Location:	St. John's and via Zoom
Members	The Reverend Dr. Elaine Ellis Thomas, Rector, Wesley Henry, Warden, Warden, John Rogers, Treasurer, Peter Holland, Clerk, Linda Board, Pam du Pont, Chip Goodrich, Donna Moeller, Jane Riggio, Kevin Walsh
Regrets:	Lois Blood-Bennet, Jan Perruccio
1.	Opening Prayer Rev. Elaine offered an opening prayer and the meeting convened at 6:30.

2.	Consent Agenda Wesley requested a motion to accept the consent agenda for approval of the May 20, 2026 vestry minutes and the meeting agenda. A motion was proposed, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the consent agenda.
3.	Hayden Trust Investments The form of agreement as between the Hayden Trust investment manager, MAI, and the Hayden Trust was reviewed and approved to correct an administrative matter allowing MAI to trade invested assets without specific case-by-case approvals of the Trust.

5.	Retreat Debrief and Strategic Planning Wesley led a discussion to review our retreat on Saturday, June 13 in Madison, Connecticut. Feedback on the process was provided and there was unified agreement to further pursue the clarification, detail and associated tactics and overall strategies associated with three areas of focus. Specifically: ● Mission and Vision ● Outreach ● Welcome The need to establish a “roadmap” with timelines, accountabilities, deliverables and parish communication were discussed. A particular need to communicate a demographic profile of our catchment area was stressed. There was a discussion of, followed by a request for, longitudinal attendance patterns and trends. We discussed the potential for collaboration with other ecclesiastical organizations and specifically with Episcopal churches within the area. The wardens agreed to meet prior to the next vestry meeting to outline the process to deliver a new strategic plan for St. John’s. The process will include a strength-weaknesses-opportunities-threats analysis (SWOT.) It is hoped that such a project could be completed in early Q4 of this year.
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6.	Adjournment It was agreed that there would not be a vestry meeting in July. The full vestry will next meet on August 19. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 following a closing prayer.
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