



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

April Vestry Meeting
Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2026 6 p.m.
Diocesan House Council Room

Saint Mark's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People, who are still here, and we honor with gratitude the land itself and the life of all the Coast Salish tribes.

Vestry Members Present

Martha Craig, Junior Warden for Facilities
Amanda Davis, Junior Warden for Finance
John Gulhaugen
Phil Haas
Sam Herring
Julia Logan, Senior Warden
Sarah McCord
Deborah Person, Junior Warden for Stewardship
Canon Charles Thorne, Bishop's Representative
Cynthia Tidwell, Diocesan Member (Zoom)
The Rev. Gail Wheatley, Diocesan Member (Zoom)
James Wilcox

Vestry Members Absent

Christopher Breunig
Hannah Hochkeppel
Mark Lundquist
Michael Monnikendam, Diocesan Member
The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean (on sabbatical)

Officers Present

Mary Dickinson, Treasurer
Barbara Erickson, Clerk (Zoom)
Re Knack, Chancellor

Staff Members Present

Marc Aubertin, Cathedral Subdean
Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator
The Rev. Canon Emily Griffin, Canon Vicar (Zoom)

Senior Warden Julia Logan opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgment and a prayer at 6:00 p.m. Mark Lundquist and Sam Herring were thanked for providing the meal.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the March 24, 2026 Vestry Meeting minutes was made, seconded, and passed.

STRATEGIC CONVERSATION

The vestry will discuss Joan Chittister's *For Everything a Season* at the May and June meetings. Julia Logan suggested relating the book to the vestry's strategic themes and Mutual Ministry Goals. Emily Griffin recommended each person choose a question from the list provided.

OLD BUSINESS

Affordable Housing Updates

Julia Logan stated that the latest plan is for the Community-Based Organization (CBO) to be a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation with St. Mark's Cathedral Parish as the sole member pursuant to which Saint Mark's will retain the right to approve Board membership (details still to be worked out) and will have approval rights over fundamental issues, but with a strong fiduciary Board a majority of whom will be members of the Black community. We anticipate a retreat possibly this summer that will focus on the CBO's mission and purpose; attendees will include the members of the Affordable Housing Committee plus consultant Kendall Clawson and a few others. The aim is to ensure the CBO is completely functional by the end of the year. The founding board, which includes Dean Thomason, will hold an operational meeting in the fall when he returns from his sabbatical.

The new dates for the Visual Story Board project are September 13 to November 22, 2026.

The Affordable Housing Committee members will be attending an Anti-racism training on June 13 in Bloedel Hall from 9:00 to 3:00, with The Rev. Canon Carla Robinson, Canon for Multicultural Ministries and Community Transformation of the Diocese of Olympia. Vestry members are encouraged to attend. Emily Griffin added that the registration form is posted on the website at: [Anti-Racism Training - Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral](#) and a flyer with a QR code will be available at the May 3 Ministry Fair.

Acoustic Tiles in Bloedel

Marc Aubertin thanked Julia Logan and the committee for their color coordination for the accent wall, the shades, and the Bloedel family for their generous gift. The addition of the acoustical panels has helped to make the space quieter.

Cathedral House HVAC Retrofit

Marc Aubertin presented details about moving the mechanical equipment from the roof to ground level and associated changes to ductwork and ceiling installations. May 1 to August 1 is the proposed timeframe for this project.

Greenbelt Update

Re Knack reported that the permit application has been submitted. Trees have been identified for either removal or crown reduction, which is selective pruning to maintain hillside stability. Costs for this year would be the removal and crown reduction of trees, and planting new trees, with the installation of jute (ground covering) being a future project.

Financial Accounting/Reporting Transition

Mary Dickinson reported that the 2025 financial review by the auditor is almost complete. The transition accounting firm Jitasa is proceeding as we move to a more standardized non-profit accounting system approach, noting the changes to the chart of accounts and reporting format. Julia Logan expressed appreciation for everyone as this transition is falling on a lot of shoulders.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff Updates

Emily Griffin announced the arrival of Evans Ousley on April 8 as Interim Director of Communications. There will be a staff potluck on May 12 to celebrate long-time office volunteer Michael Murphree, who is moving to Gig Harbor. Bishop LaBelle invited the cathedral staff to join his staff at the Mariners game on June 18.

Design Team Update

Re Knack announced that the committee will interview three general contractors for the Living Stones II project, and then make a report to the vestry.

LEADERSHIP REPORTS

Senior Warden

- Attended the April 21 staff meeting, which included reviewing the Emergency Preparedness procedures.
- Deanery bathroom project is slated to begin the week of May 25.
- Seminarian Emily Meeks was approved for candidacy for ordination.
- Thank you to the clergy and staff for Easter Day, Cathedral Day, and the Rick Steves/Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee presentation.
- Thank you to Marc Aubertin, Mary Dickinson, Erik Donner, Emily Griffin, Re Knack, and the junior wardens for their leadership during the dean's absence.
- After an Easter Day service, met a couple walking home who are three years into a search for a new Episcopal church. They said this is where they want to become members after hearing Dean Thomason's sermon, which referenced the Mutual Ministry Goals.
- Thank you letters in Dropbox from AIDNW, Clear Mountain Monastery, and the Duwamish Tribe.

MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities

Martha Craig reported: the nave baptismal font is performing well, but maintenance costs are increasing; the moth-damaged Persian rug in Cathedral House Room 210 has been removed; Saint Mark's Habitat for Humanity is applying to the Low Income Housing Institute to build a tiny house in June; Garden Ministry is preparing the grounds around the labyrinth for planting of annuals and the new drip irrigation system will be installed; and volunteer opportunities for the Greenbelt Ministry are under discernment. Marc Aubertin added that the Leffler House third-floor apartment renovation is almost complete, and the potholes in the parking lot will be repaired on May 12.

Stewardship

Deborah Person announced two new committee members, Sandy Nelson and Alexandra Thompson, and the 2027 campaign launch dinner is scheduled for September 25.

Restorative Justice Council

Emily Griffin shared news about a new court accompaniment program partnering with the Archdiocese of Seattle and Jewish Coalition for Immigrant Justice NW, with training scheduled for June 27 11:00-3:00.

Communications

Julia Logan will meet with Evans Ousley to seek ideas on how the vestry can support her, and about suggested changes for the Saint Mark's website.

Accessibility Coordination

Gail Wheatley shared a report from Alexandra Thompson stating that the Task Force is thrilled the Design Committee is using their recommendations.

CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER

Checkouts were given, the closing prayer was offered by Phil Haas, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara J. Erickson
Clerk

Erik Donner
Cathedral Administrator

Dates/Events of note

5/3 Ministry Fair
5/9 Liturgical Ministers Training
5/24 Pentecost