



**SAINT MARK'S**  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

**May Vestry Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**Tuesday, May 26, 2026 6 p.m.**  
**Zoom**

*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**

Christopher Breunig  
Martha Craig, Junior Warden for Facilities  
Amanda Davis, Junior Warden for Finance  
John Gulhaugen  
Phil Haas  
Sam Herring  
Hannah Hochkeppel  
Julia Logan, Senior Warden  
Mark Lundquist  
Sarah McCord  
Michael Monnikendam, Diocesan Member  
Deborah Person, Junior Warden for Stewardship  
Canon Charles Thorne, Bishop's Representative  
Cynthia Tidwell, Diocesan Member  
The Rev. Gail Wheatley, Diocesan Member  
James Wilcox

**Vestry Members Absent**

The Very Rev. Steve Thomason, Dean (on sabbatical)

**Officers Present**

Mary Dickinson, Treasurer  
Re Knack, Chancellor

**Officers Absent**

Barbara Erickson, Clerk

**Staff Members Present**

Marc Aubertin, Cathedral Subdean  
Erik Donner, Cathedral Administrator  
The Rev. Canon Emily Griffin, Canon Vicar  
Senior Warden Julia Logan opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgment and a prayer at 6:00 p.m. Deborah Person was thanked for taking the minutes in place of Barbara Erickson who was traveling.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion to approve the April 28, 2026 Vestry Meeting minutes was made, seconded, and passed, with one amendment: change “recommendation” to “report” in the Design Team Update section.**

## **STRATEGIC CONVERSATION**

The vestry discussed Joan Chittister’s *For Everything a Season*, with members sharing insights on various chapters including "A Time to Lose," "A Time to Sow," and "A Time to Die." The discussion highlighted themes of loss as opportunity, sowing seeds for future generations, and the importance of making changes for the benefit of future generations rather than passing problems forward.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Visual Storytelling Exhibit**

Christopher Breunig provided an update on this project. The goal is to tell the story of racially restrictive covenants in Capitol Hill, and is in partnership with the Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project. The exhibit will be displayed in the nave from September 20 to November 22, 2026, with a permanent exhibit to follow in the former Skinner Auditorium space once the affordable housing project is complete. Julia inquired about an opening reception, which Christopher confirmed will take place on September 20, with a separate event planned for the larger community on a date to be determined.

### **Cathedral House HVAC Retrofit**

Marc Aubertin updated on the Cathedral House HVAC retrofit, reporting significant progress including removed ductwork and hot water convectors, with the project expected to be completed by August 1.

### **Greenbelt Update**

Re Knack gave an update on the tree removal issue as it currently stands. One tree near the Egan House has been removed by City of Seattle Parks and Recreation. Four other trees on city property have been identified as needing to be removed, and will be removed in August after the nesting season is over. Seattle Tree Care is recommending some trees on both St. Mark’s Cathedral Parish property and St. Mark’s Properties, LLC property to be removed. Soil is currently being evaluated for potential slide damage before a final decision is made on how best to deal with them. We are still in the permitting process for those trees. The final steps will include putting material down to help manage slide danger. All this work will happen in this fiscal (calendar) year. Future years will include planting new trees.

### **Financial Accounting/Reporting Transition Update**

Mary Dickinson provided an update on the accounting transition to Jitasa, noting that while March and April financial statements were not yet available, Saint Mark's was managing cash flow well. There will be significant changes in the new financial reports, but all to the good. The lack of a staff accountant/bookkeeper has been a challenge, resulting in a heavier workload for Marc Aubertin and others. Marc assured the vestry that this was a temporary situation.

### **Anti-Racism Training**

Julia reported that twenty people have signed up so far for the anti-racism training on June 13, and reminded everyone to sign up in advance, so the organizers can plan accordingly. The training will not be streamed or recorded, so in person will be the only way to access the information.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Design Team Report**

Re Knack reported on the selection process for a general contractor for the Living Stones II project. After reviewing proposals from three candidates, the Design Committee selected Abbott Construction based on their extensive experience with religious institutions, which includes a successful completion of a project at University Lutheran Church, Seattle this year.

The contract from Abbott has just been received and will be reviewed by our legal counsel. Once the contract is approved, Abbott will be announced to the parish as our general contractor. Re anticipates a parish forum later in the summer, once a schematic design has been created.

**A motion to approve entering into a contract with Abbott Construction for the Living Stones II capital project – pending legal review – was made, seconded, and approved unanimously by the Vestry.**

### **Possibility of Canceling July Vestry Meeting**

Julia reported that the July Vestry meeting may be canceled. There is a tradition of not meeting in July when possible, but only if there aren't any items that need immediate attention.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

### **Senior Warden**

- Spoke at the three morning services on May 17, conveying Dean Steve and Kathy's greetings, reminding everyone of the HVAC retrofit project, and encouraging people to thank clergy and staff for the extra work they are doing during Steve's sabbatical.
- Is continuing in her efforts to attend all standing committee meetings at least once during the year.
- Met with Interim Communications Director Evans Ousley. They both agreed on holding off on reinstating the Communications Committee until Steve returns.
- Work is proceeding on the deanery bathrooms. The goal is for it to be finished by the time Steve and Kathy return from the UK in late June.

## **MINISTRY/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Stewardship**

All-parish dinner on September 25, 2026, like what was done in September 2024.

### **Restorative Justice Council**

Christopher reported that the accompaniment team has partnered at least five immigrants on their court visits. Emily Griffin has worked on forming additional partnerships with other organizations doing this work, giving us more opportunities to be involved.

### **Accessibility Coordination**

Hannah reported that she and Gail are working on meeting with the accessibility task force to discuss next steps for implementing their recommendations.

## **CHECK OUT & CLOSING PRAYER**

Checkouts were given, the closing prayer was offered by Re Knack, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Person  
Vestry Member

Erik Donner  
Cathedral Administrator

### **Dates/Events of Note**

6/9	Interfaith Taizé
6/13	Anti-Racism Training
6/14	Baccalaureate Sunday Recognition
6/14 and 6/21	Parish Book Discussions of <i>For Everything a Season</i> (10:10am Bloedel Hall)
6/21	Alison Leary's Last Day as a Deacon at SMC
6/27	Quiet Pride
7/18	Priesthood Ordinations at SMC