

Trinity Parish Vestry Meeting

Minutes

March 19, 2026

Attendance: Don Ghostlaw, Rose Riley, Rob Heath, Sarah Butters, Rebecca Scruton, Greg Joseph, Aversa Sheldon, Melissa Pavick, Melanie Hepburn

Absent: Ray Colburn

6:33pm Meeting called to order

1. Opening prayer. Rebecca Scruton. Review of use and practice of Dwelling in the Word.
2. Changes to the agenda. Don Ghostlaw. Need a quick vote on Mission and Outreach, and discussion of Church Safety.
3. Approval of minutes. Don Ghostlaw. Motion to accept minutes from February made by Joseph, second by Scruton. No discussion. Vote to accept unanimous. Minutes approved.
4. Financial report. Rob Heath. For February, income was \$2.9k under budget, \$.9k over for the year. Expenses for February were over budget by \$1.3k, over \$1.6k for the year. Pledge income for February was \$4.4k over budget, \$671 under for the year. Non-Pledge for February was \$271 under budget, \$537 under for the year. Other Income: Griffith Academy made \$2,250 payment and reviewed their use of space for another year. Utilities continue to be over budget. Hawks Helpers contributed funds to help with higher electrical bills due in part to additional freezers. Motion to accept made by Greg Joseph, second by Rose Riley. Vote to accept report unanimous. Report accepted.
5. Mission and Outreach. Joseph and Riley. Motion to make a check from account #5246000 in the amount of \$1000 be made to Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe's Good Friday collection to support Holy Land Ministries. Motion made by Joseph, second by Scruton. Vote to approve unanimous. Motion passes.
6. Church accessibility. Don Ghostlaw. Jones is heading up the fundraising needed to cover the costs of the feasibility study. State Historic Preservation Office has awarded \$7500 in matching funds. Motion to move \$7500 as matching funds. Moved by Joseph, second by Butters. Vote to approve unanimous. Motion passes.
7. Utility costs. Rob Heath. Electrical costs have climbed considerably over the last 6 months. It is not clear what is driving the additional usage (the additional fridge/freezers probably do not account for all of it).

8. ECTT Spring Training. Rose Riley. Spring schedule was shared with the group. Some are available on Zoom, others are in-person on Saturday, May 2nd.
9. Vestry meeting schedule. Wardens have cancelled the July meeting.
10. Discretionary fund. Don Ghostlaw and Rose Riley. A request has come in to assist someone. Wardens researched how best to replenish discretionary fund in the future. Rose Riley reviewed church cannon. The parish could have a fund raiser for the discretionary fund, perhaps use the endowment to top up. They will come back to us with a recommendation in the future.
11. Church Safety. Don Ghostlaw and Rose Riley. Rose attended a meeting for wardens of churches that do not have priests. Fire, external intrusion, and medical are the three categories under the umbrella of “safety”. Some simple fixes would be laminated maps in pews, AED installed. Suggestion to form a new committee to address these. Any vestry members who would be interested in leading or participating in such a committee, please let one of the wardens know. There is some money available from ECCT to help with some of these issues. Suggestion to take a few minutes before the next Vestry meeting to identify exits, fire extinguishers.
12. Accessibility project update. Don Ghostlaw. An architectural firm has been retained. They have reviewed the building this week to take measurements of the interior. The project will proceed in phases, with the bathrooms likely be the first issue to be addressed. The feasibility will be completed by end of May. Phase 2, full set of construction plans will need to be finished by the end of October in order for Carol to be able to apply for \$200,000 grant.
13. Recap. Joint wardens meeting with St. James’ wardens. The meeting was very productive. The next vestry meeting will be a joint meeting and it will be held at St. James. (If something comes up that needs to be voted on, it will be handled via email.) Update on search for a priest – the position had been the only full-time position being advertised for several weeks. The diocese is collecting applications. Currently, there is at least one candidate. Hopefully, more will come in before the end of the month. If anyone has suggestions for the agenda for the joint meeting, please forward to the wardens.
14. Bunnies. Don Ghostlaw. The Easter Egg Hunt has arranged for 2 bunnies to be available for picture taking etc. There will be an educator to handle the bunnies and provide a short program.
15. Aversa has been in touch with Kim from Wethersfield Social Services about having some of the downstairs space being used for resources (clothing etc). Would be great to have tutoring services available in the future. It has been heartening to see our relationship with WSS improve over the last few years.
16. Closing prayer. Sarah Butters.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Melanie Hepburn 3/19/2026