

Church of Our Saviour
Vestry Meeting Minutes
Senior Warden Reviewed Draft
Thursday, March 19, 2026

Present: Rev. Julia McCray-Goldsmith, Interim Rector; Mike Peters, Senior Warden; Cliff Waldeck, Junior Warden; Jennifer Dodge, Clerk; Dallas Forshew; Caroline Gibbs; John MacLeod; Kathryne Monier; Amy Paulenich; Frances Whitnall.

Absent: none

Opening

Rev. Julia opened the meeting with a prayer.

Administrative Business

The March Retreat Minutes were approved as presented.

Rector's Report

Reflection on the first few weeks Rev. Julia reflected on the last three weeks, March 1 - March 19. She remarked that the Church of Our Saviour community is strong, representative of Mill Valley, creative, open-minded, and friendly. These strengths are epitomized by the work of COS Cares. She also discussed ways in which she thinks she can support the church during the search phase, such as building clarity around the roles and procedures that make the church run, such as making sure that spaces are not double-booked. She is observing how families, especially with young children, interact with the community. Her early thought, make all events family-friendly.

Holy Week Rev. Julia reviewed the program for Easter week noting a couple new things she would like to try, such as ending Palm Sunday with celebration rather than silence, which leads into a recital led by Jeanette. (Rev. Julia noted that it is liturgically correct.) The Vigil will also be different this year with a campfire, some astronomy, very family-oriented and interfaith.

Music Program Rev. Julia is working with the Finance Committee to explore possibilities around establishing an independent budget for the Music Director.

Program Initiative Ideas

- Congregational skill building, such as lay Eucharistic ministers and visiting ministers
- Acolyte program
- Communication skills such as appreciative inquiry, nonviolent communication
- One-off adult education programs, such as overview of the Psalms, or the Theologies of Salvation, or a talk on countering Christian Nationalism
- Bible In A Year program. Rev. Julia has a user friendly curriculum that anyone could pick up and use.

- Opening the Godly Play for toddler and children's programs such as Music Together

Search Committee Report

The Vestry reviewed a letter from the Search Committee explaining the importance of building a new website in time for the publication of the Church's opening for a new Rector. The church website will be a place for potential candidates to view our parish. The Vestry agreed to a goal to get the website ready by June 19th. Jen Dodge, John McCleod, Christine Maxwell, and Christian Buss were picked to be on the committee and approved by the Vestry with a budget to be determined at a later date.

Finance Committee Report

Amy presented the Finance Committee Report. She noted that pledge income is not tracking with the Budget right now, that is normal at this time of the year. The Finance Committee uses a ten-year average to create the budget for anticipated pledges. The amount needs to be tracked over the year.

Regarding costs for the Music Program during Holy Week, it was suggested to use some of the Vital & Thriving seed grant money to pay for section leaders for Palm Sunday. Jeannette has also proposed including a QR code in the programs that invites people to contribute directly to the Music Program. She believes that musical events can provide fundraising for paying visiting musicians throughout the year.

Committee Reports

Marketing Committee The draft of the advertisement for the Enjoy Mill Valley insert in an upcoming Marin Magazine issue was approved by the Vestry. Jen will finalize the ad and coordinate with Muneera to deliver the final ad.

Rev. Julia and our Deacon, David, are working on ways to improve the bulletin.

Cliff gave a quick report on the Wedding Expo. He felt that it was not the most successful venture, but it was good to have some of the materials lined up.

Especially in support of building a new website, the Vestry agreed that a year's membership in caffeinatedchurch.org should be purchased. The cost is only \$100. Jen will email Muneera to execute the purchase. Muneera and the members of the Website Committee will have access.

Buildings & Grounds Committee Cliff, Junior Warden, gave the report. He and Mike will do a walk-through soon of the rectory to see what needs fixing or replacing. They will also check in with Brother Richard regarding when his family plans to move out of the rectory. Cliff noted that money for a new water heater was approved by the previous Vestry, because Br. Richard was worried that it might break soon, but that the money hasn't been spent yet. Cliff is anticipating new paint and carpet, a new refrigerator and possibly a new water heater. These will be paid for with funds from the Rectory Reserves.

A Rectory Agreement between Church of Our Saviour and Grace Cathedral is expected soon. This agreement will simply show that Grace will pay rent to Church of Our Saviour for Br. Richard's housing allowance, at least through June of this year.

Bright Horizons Lease Cliff and Mike will measure out Hammond Hall and the school space downstairs and compare with the building plans. Mike has let Bright Horizons know that we have had a change of leadership. Since they rejected our proposal from last year, we are regrouping on the lease renewal.

Senior Warden Report

Newcomers Committee Mike has been reading the Diocese's training on Vital Christian Community. Mike is reading the book and noticed that COS is already doing a lot of these things, but we need to do it better, more thoroughly.

It was suggested to send out a form letter welcoming a new person/family that includes resources and links.

Vestry Post-It Notes From the retreat meeting, Mike gathered the post-it note ideas. A congregation member offered to help categorize and analyze the ideas to help prioritize them.

Stewardship 2026

The Stewardship Committee is still looking for co-chairs. Planning will start soon to give a six month lead time before the Campaign starts in earnest in the Fall. Mike and Frances will work on this.

Closing

Rev. Julia the meeting with a prayer.