

Episcopal Church of St. Martin, Davis
Vestry Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2026
7:00 PM – 9:01PM, Room 6/7

Present: Maria Acuna-Feldman (Sr. Warden), Gabe Avila (Clerk), Mae Barnes, The Very Rev. Pamela Dolan (Rector), Stan Forbes, Kevin Hanks, Carole Hom, Jim Jordan, Elise Keddie (Jr. Warden), Tony Miller, Jessie Ann Owens (Treasurer), Stephen Reynolds

Absent: None

1. Approval of the draft agenda for April 15, 2026

- a. Stephen moved and Elise seconded a motion to approve the April 15, 2026, agenda as presented in the Vestry packet, with the modification of pulling the Operations Director report from the consent agenda to discuss an informational item and changing item two on the agenda from a Benedictine study to a spiritual practice. The motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

2. Opening Prayer

- a. Pamela shared a historical overview of labyrinths, discussed the three parts of a labyrinth (release, receive, and return), and led the Vestry in a labyrinth walk and prayer.

3. Approval of the minutes from March 18, 2026

- a. Jim moved and Kevin seconded a motion to approve the March 18, 2026, minutes as presented in the Vestry packet. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention.

4. INFORMATIONAL: Treasurer's Report

- a. First Quarter Report
The end of the first quarter saw a sharp drop in the value of our investments as the market reacted to the Iran War. Fortunately, these are "paper" losses since there is no need for us to sell low. Pledge revenue for March was below budget but year-to-date we are ahead. March expenditures were also below budget. The Rector Pension contribution (line 730.1) was not paid in March because of problems with the new website; the payment was made in April. The total number of pledgers has increased slightly (123), just over the goal of 120, and the total pledged is now also just over \$500,000, the number budgeted for 2026.

5. DISCUSSION: Stewardship

- a. Pamela reviewed the Budget Guidelines, as approved by previous vestries, including the timeline for the budget and stewardship process. Pamela also reviewed the membership of the stewardship committee.
- b. The vestry discussed potential national financial issues due to the

economy and unstable markets.

- c. Pamela discussed the continued need to be intentional about communicating with the parish throughout the year about how we're doing budget-wise. The vestry discussed that it should be shared with the parish that the monetary budget goal from the stewardship campaign and the pledging unit goal have both been met.

6. INFORMATIONAL: Energy Audit

- a. Gabe shared a summary of the recent energy audit of the parish campus. The audit found that, because on-site solar generation exceeds annual electrical consumption, St. Martin's currently operates at net-zero electricity and is exceptionally well positioned from an energy standpoint, with the lowest Energy Use Intensity (EUI) among the 40 Northern California Diocese churches evaluated.
- b. The audit emphasized that future energy projects should focus less on reducing utility bills and more on solar-positive production, reducing gas dependence, extending equipment life, and enhancing long-term stewardship. Recommended priorities included Wi-Fi-enabled thermostat controls, LED lighting retrofits, weather stripping, battery storage for backup power resilience, and rain catchment improvements. Additional recommendations included policy changes such as improved HVAC zone management, motion sensors, routine filter cleaning, recommended temperature settings, and reducing unnecessary lighting use.
- c. The audit also noted that while the church is net-zero annually, it currently cannot operate independently from the grid during outages, and that adding battery storage and a dedicated backup loads panel would allow the campus to serve as a community support hub during emergencies.
- d. The report further noted that full electrification of cooking systems may not currently be cost-effective relative to existing gas usage, and that grant opportunities may be available for future improvements.

7. INFORMATIONAL: 2027 Vestry Retreat

- a. The cost of the 2026 vestry retreat was \$264.50 per person.
- b. The vestry discussed the venue for the 2027 vestry retreat and decided to book with Mercy Center again.

8. Junior Warden's Report

- a. Elise shared that the sewer system recently backed up onto the lawn, requiring an emergency cleanout. A follow-up camera assessment of the campus piping was conducted. The piping is old but not broken or blocked. It was noted that the janitor has seen an uptick in people clogging the toilets with paper towels.
- b. There is a pest problem on site which is being addressed by Buildings and Grounds.

- c. There is an ongoing roof leak issue with STEAC's trailer and the flooring below it. This is being addressed with STEAC and the Scouts and being repaired.

9. Senior Warden's Report

- a. Selection Team Update
 - i. Maria shared that there are two architectural firms that are interested in submitting a request for proposals and there is now a timeline for this process. The vestry will get more information at the June meeting and notify the applicants of selection by July 1st.
- b. Update on Easter Special Plates
 - i. Maria shared that the Easter Plate was approximately \$4700. The Good Friday collection was \$716. The Easter Thanksgiving and Memorials collection for the altar guild was just over \$2600. These will be disbursed soon.
 - ii. Maria shared that the diocesan office has been scheduling quarterly warden meetings. One of the items of note from those meetings was a request to share the congregational violence prevention plan with your employees and community.

10. Rector's Report

- a. Pamela reminded everyone of the May 9th racial reconciliation training which is being held on-site at St. Martin's. The signup will be emailed to the vestry.
- b. Pamela asked Steve Hassett at the diocese for information about doing another Mutual Ministry Review, and the executive committee needs to select dates.
- c. Pamela is meeting with Cristosal representatives on Monday, April 20th at noon. Cristosal does human rights advocacy in various countries around the world.
- d. There is a new Executive Director at STEAC, who has been introduced to the staff already via email. The office staff is working on a new MOU with STEAC.
- e. **INFORMATIONAL:** Curacy Update
 - i. There is currently one applicant for all three positions. The applicant is required to interview with all three groups. The interview with St. Martin's is on Friday, April 17. Assuming one or more applicants want to move forward, they will be brought back in early May for an in-person interview.

- ii. The vestry discussed the formation of a ministry support team for the curate, and also discussed the possible ways a priest could be supported at a smaller church as well.
- f. **The July 15 meeting has been shifted to July 22.**

11. Operations Director Report

- a. **INFORMATIONAL:** Assisted listening
 - i. Gabe shared an update from a small task force composed of Anthony Miller, Jessie Ann Owens, and Gabe Avila about assisted listening devices.
 - ii. A loop system is unattainable given the current building structure. It would require either trenching in the cement or laying down carpeting to cover the grid-patterned, metal wiring on the floor that forms the loop. The two main technologies used for assisted listening FM or bluetooth technology.
 - iii. Auracast transmitted over a new and faster version of Bluetooth. Auracast technology is taking over the assisted listening market, but has not been completely adopted yet. Only the newer hearing aids, mostly made in the last 2 years, can connect to Auracast. Some hearing aid companies are not adding Auracast to their hearing aids because they are trying to create their own technology. However, it looks like Auracast is likely to come out on top.
 - iv. The task force met with a representative from Williams Sound who demonstrated a new technology called Auracast. The demo went very well.
 - v. The task force recommends purchasing an Auracast enabled transmitter and receiver system from Williams Sound called "Infinium."
 - vi. This expense request will go to the Executive Committee since it will be under the amount required for vestry approval.

12. Accept the Consent Agenda

- a. Elise moved and Carole seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. This motion passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

13. Closing Prayer and Adjourn

- a. Stephen moved and Kevin seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.
- b. Pamela concluded the meeting with a follow-up on the labyrinth walk and a brief prayer. She noted that the Vestry will be reading "Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict" together.

MEETING ADJOURNED at **9:01 PM.**