There was a meeting of the vestry of Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church, Chestnut Hill, on the above date at 7 p.m. in Dixon House.

There were present Ruth Desiderio, Rector’s Warden, presiding; also Interim Rector the Rev. Canon Albert J. Ogle, and Lisa Budd, Chip Butler, Steve Camp-Landis, Cheyenne DeMulder, Mark Duckett, Clark Groome, John Kimberly, Chuck Lower, Tabitha Oman, Steve Pearson, Kristen Poole, Louise Thompson, and Hugh Williamson. Parish Bookkeeper Kristin Deissler and Director of Music Andy Kotylo were the vestry’s guests.

Tim Albert and Amanda Scates-Preisinger were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. Interim Rector Albert Ogle opened the meeting with a reading and a prayer.

II. Rector’s Warden Ruth Desiderio read the Listening Hearts Guidelines.

III. The minutes of the June 17, 2019 vestry meeting passed unanimously

IV. On motion of the Rector’s Warden, duly seconded, Steve Camp-Landis was unanimously elected to fill the vestry term of Anibal Aponte-Boyd, who resigned effective with Steve’s election.

V. The Interim Rector nominated Steve Camp-Landis to be the parish Accounting Warden. The nomination was seconded and passed unanimously.

(An updated vestry contact sheet is attached to these minutes.)

VI. Ruth said that “Anibal was a great asset. He assumed the position willing to do whatever needed to be done. He probably was not fully aware of the scope of it. His work obligations are overwhelming his ability to do what’s required. I want to thank him for his service.”

VII. Clark Groome said that the resolution to change the signatories on the Glenmede accounts was passed 15-0 in an e-mail vote taken from July 15-19, 2019. Anibal is
working on getting this up to date and said that he would be available and willing to help in any way needed.

VIII. Parish bookkeeper Kristin Deissler reported on the following:

• The draft audit statement has been received.

• The Glenmede accounts for the endowment and the capital campaign funds are now separate and will be reported that way going forward.

• Because of the transition and some personnel changes we’re facing some one-time costs this year. It’s hard to judge at this point just what the operating deficit will be.

• 77% of the funds pledged to the capital campaign have been received.

• Pledges to the capital campaign were both verbal ($918,000) and on paper (836,000).

• Quarterly statements are sent.

There was the sense of the meeting that gentle reminders be sent to all. Perhaps a letter from Albert included with one of the statements would be a good way to handle this.

IX. After a lengthy discussion of the proposed parish bylaws, they were passed unanimously.

X. The Vestry Size Reduction Plan to reduce the size of the vestry from 16 to 12 and the length of vestry terms from four to three years (with the possibility of one continuous reelection before cycling off) was moved, seconded, and passed without dissent. (A copy is attached to these minutes.)

XI. Director of Music Andy Kotylo reviewed the organ’s history and its current needs:

• The organ has an historic core dating to 1929, the year the current church opened.

• In 1956, the parish’s centennial, most of the organ was new; the builder was Aeolian-Skinner.
•In the 1970s Richard Alexander got additional pipes and the organ began to grow.

•The original organ had 64 ranks (a rank is a set of pipes); the current organ has 115 ranks.

•To tuners and technicians it’s unwieldy and hard to access.

•John Schwandt is the current consultant. He’s both a really well-trained organ technician and a virtuoso player, a rarity. He’s also, Andy says, very practical. He made three recommendations:

  1. Remove the chancel organ; clean and repair all the pipes as well as renovating chamber spaces.
  2. Redesign the layout of the chancel organ.
  3. Redesign and possibly replace the console so that all controls are arranged in a more standard fashion thereby enabling all organists to interact with the instrument with greater ease and efficiency.

  •He also recommends sealing the wood of the ceiling and the stone with coats of polyurethane to make the acoustics a bit friendlier to music.

•Andy said that the Music Guild recommends retaining John Schwandt as our consultant.

•We likely don’t need to retain the console in the gallery.

Andy noted that three bids from organ builders are being sought. He hopes to have them in by late October or early November and then bring a recommendation to the vestry. The costs for the project may range from about $1 million to double that.

The vestry urged Andy to proceed and expressed its understanding that the organ is a vital part of our parish and its needs are significant and should be addressed.

It’s also possible that there are some people outside the parish who might be willing to contribute to renewing what is viewed as a very important instrument.

It was also mentioned that if possible the capital campaign work on the sanctuary and the work on the organ should take place at the same time.

XII. Property Committee Chairman Mark Duckett reported on the following:
1. The Property Committee met with four design groups that will help us with the design of the entire project. The committee recommends Studio Agoos Lovera. On a motion duly seconded the property committee’s recommendation was approved unanimously.

2. The possible construction managers are still being reviewed. It is expected that there will be a recommendation at or before the October vestry meeting.

3. The entire project, once begun, should take about a year.

4. The sewer project is very close to getting underway. Some approvals are still required. Mark said that the project should begin by the end of September or in early October and will be completed well before Thanksgiving.

XIII. The Interim Rector and the Parish Discernment Group (for postulancy) have recommended that St. Paul’s’ Bob Smith should be accepted as a postulant in the Diocese of Pennsylvania as a vocational deacon. The vestry unanimously and enthusiastically supported Bob’s candidacy. The Secretary immediately informed the diocese of the vestry’s action.

XIV. The Interim Rector brought the vestry up to date on the state of the parish’s personnel which he calls the parish’s “Transition Team.”

XV. Albert suggested that in order to build some cross-communication among the services we set up neighborhood groups with a vestry member and another parishioner organizing a get together – a coffee, a cocktail party, a dinner, whatever. This would get people who live near to each other an opportunity to get together. It would also give parishioners an opportunity to talk with the vestry and to share their ideas.

Albert said there is a Swahili word, *Endaba*, which means “My well-being is tied up with your well-being.”

There was some concern that there are a number of parishioners that don’t live near others and thus a different approach would need to be taken.

XVI. Albert proposes that the vestry have a Saturday retreat, possibly before Thanksgiving. It would allow us to get a lot of work done and might also involve our parish consultant.
XVII. Ruth reported that she has asked John Rollins to chair the Self-Study Committee. He has accepted.

This committee precedes the formation of the Search, or Discernment, Committee.

Its job is to create the parish profile, one form of which will be posted on our website and available to anyone applying to be our next rector. A second, more concise form, will be posted online by the Church Deployment Office at the national church in New York. This profile would be available to all clergy looking for opportunities to be a rector.

Ruth said that this committee has a big job ahead of it: constructing a survey; doing small focus groups; doing some large parish work; meeting with committee and ministry chairpersons; eliciting and interpreting the right information and then interpreting it; and finally producing the final documents. Those documents should accurately represent who we are and where we want to be going forward.

She feels that there should be some vestry members on the committee and asked anyone interested to let her know. She also said that there will be some crossover between those on the Self-Study Committee and the Search Committee.

XVIII. Ruth, after some description of who she is and what she's done previously, proposed that the Rev. Barbara W. Abbott, currently the interim rector of St. Mary’s Ardmore, be engaged as our search consultant. Her fee is $800/month. She will be available to the vestry and the Self-Study and Search Committees and maintain contact about our process with the diocese. Her engagement as our consultant was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

XIX. Louise Thompson said she wanted to thank Ruth and Albert for doing so much to move St. Paul’s forward in the previous three months.

XX. The next meeting of the vestry will be October 21, 2019 at 7 p.m. in Dixon House.

XXI. Following Albert’s closing prayer, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Clark Groome
Secretary
VESTRY CONTACT SHEET
2019-2020

Tim Albert (2020) – 215-519-1166 – timalbert80@yahoo.com

Lisa Budd (2021) – 267-735-1202 – lbudd6126@gmail.com

Thomas E. “Chip” Butler Jr. (2023) – (home) 215-247-7314; (cell) 215-920-8106 – tbutler846@gmail.com

Stephen Camp-Landis (Accounting Warden) (2024) – 215-280-9642 – slandis2@yahoo.com

Cheyenne DeMulder (2021) – 908-938-3700 – cldemulder@gmail.com

Ruth Desiderio (Rector’s Warden) (2022) – 215-266-6048 – ruthdesiderio@gmail.com
Mark P. Duckett (2023) – (cell) 267-239-4034 – ducketttmpd@hotmail.com

Clark Groome (Secretary) (2024) – (home) 267-335-5651; (cell) 215-421-2416– clark@groome.org or cgroome@comcast.net

John Kimberly (2022) – (home) 215-242-6461; (cell) 215-740-9302 – kimberly@wharton.upenn.edu

Tabitha Oman (2020) – 202-907-8649 – omantr@yahoo.com

Stephen Pearson (Parishioners’ Warden) (2022) – 215-630-1246 – peari@msn.com

Kristen Poole (2022) – 215-769-8654 – kpoole36@gmail.com

Amanda Scates-Preisinger (2021) 716-374-0179 – amanda.scates@gmail.com

Louise S. Thompson (2023) – (home) 215-248-3624; (cell) 215-284-6603; thchhill@aol.com

Hugh D. Williamson (2023) – 484-431-1334; hdwilliamson@outlook.com

Albert Ogle (Interim Rector) – (office) 215-242-2055x28; (cell) 845-443-3516 canon@stpaulschestnuthill.org; (home) goajogle@gmail.com
# VESTRY SIZE REDUCTION PLAN

## CURRENT VESTRY MEMBERS BY YEAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
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NONE OF THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY ARE ELIGIBLE FOR REELECTION.

Here’s how you reach 12, assuming all current vestry members complete their terms.

2. Two members elected in 2021 for a THREE-YEAR TERM. They will be eligible for reelection once after their initial terms expire in 2024. Vestry now at 12.

3. From 2022 going forward: four members elected each year for a THREE-YEAR TERM. They will be eligible for reelection once after their initial terms expire.