

The Episcopal Church of St. Michael & All Angels

3233 Pacific View Drive
Corona del Mar, CA 92625

The Rev'd Dr. Shane Scott-Hamblen, Presiding Officer

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting (revised) September 9, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT

The Rev'd Dr. Shane Scott-Hamblen
Clerk (interim) – Susan Brown
Anthony Agoni
Mary Bailey
Tom Nicholson

Senior Warden – Jill Draffin
Junior Warden – Ali Haghjoo
Elizabeth Henry
Pat Albers
Jim Headley

Excused: Doug Neff, Steve Gribben, Jamie Mead

1. Opening

- 1.1. Prayer by Fr. Shane Scott-Hamblen opened the meeting at 5 p.m.
- 1.2. Minutes for June were approved with a correction to the bishop's name in section 3.9. Ali moved to accept, and Pat seconded.
- 1.3. Revised minutes for July were approved. Jill moved to accept, and Jim seconded.

2. Rector's report

- 2.1 A clarinetist from the Vienna Philharmonic is able to bring a string quartet to perform here on March 6, at a cost of \$8,000. Jill pointed out that we would need to figure out how to pay the musicians, since we cannot technically sell tickets. We could do a suggested donation. Should we decide to use the event as a fund-raiser for Friends of Music, Elizabeth has offered to underwrite the hospitality portion and look into reasonable prices for tickets. An email vote was suggested.
- 2.2 A string quartet will perform Haydn's Last Seven Words of Christ on Good Friday. Lukas says that he can get performers for \$500.
- 2.3 Fr. Shane recognizes that trying to build a girls' choir while redeveloping the property may be an unrealistic goal. Instead, he is setting up a meeting with the Korean youth orchestra that already performs at our church about ways to have them join us occasionally or combine with some of our bigger events.
- 2.4 Fr. Shane's name is up for the general board of examiners of the Episcopal Church, meaning that, if elected, he would have to read exams. As part of the process, our parish might have a seminarian for a year at a time to help with parish life.

2.5 Because our website is the main channel for our Google grant, Fr. Shane and Steven believe we need to make our website look more professional. Steve is getting bids from several local marketing and web development firms. Fr. Shane prefers a website more akin in feel to that of St. Michael's Abbey, which he says conveys mystique and seriousness and will attract young people.

2.6 Lukas will be graduating from USC next spring.

3. Treasurer's report

3.1 The treasurer's report passes. Anthony moves to accept it, and Elizabeth seconds.

4. Senior Warden's report

4.1 The Vestry agrees to pay the diocese the 10 percent it had promised from the \$1 million real-estate deposit, minus parish expenses. That means the diocese will be getting more than \$83,000.

4.2 Jill circulates a draft of a notice for a part-time position to support parish life.

4.3 The Vestry approves allowing Seashore Academy to use the preschool space for \$1,000 a month, to be netted against what we owe them when they leave. Although the parish agreement with Seashore Academy runs through August 2028, we are hoping to close next summer on the building. We are legally responsible for any increase in their rent. The \$1,000 a month is well under market rate. Fr. Shane offers to check with the Deanery Clericus if they know of any potential church space available for the school in Newport Beach or Costa Mesa. Ali moves to pass the agreement, and Elizabeth seconds.

4.4 The Vestry approves spending up to \$7,000 on an attorney for a legal matter. Jill will ask for an estimate from the attorney. Elizabeth makes the motion, and Anthony seconds.

4.5 The Vestry votes to combine the parish emergency fund and the rector's discretionary fund. Although the parish emergency fund is meant to be run by parishioners, it's difficult to define who a parishioner is. Pat makes the motion, and Ali seconds it.

5. Junior Warden's report

5.1 The Vestry votes to get more information about a new landscape vendor and also to negotiate with Felipe for improvements on service, price, and sustainability. Louise had wanted a more responsive landscaper and proposed FatherEarth TreeCare. Fr. Shane thinks Felipe is responsive and deserves a chance. Others think that because of the upcoming construction, the timing is wrong to change landscapers because we may want to do all new landscaping in the future. Anthony makes the motion, and Ali seconds it.

5.2 The Vestry decides that rather than undertake a full bathroom renovation by the choir rooms, it will make only cosmetic changes now. Tom encourages the Vestry to undertake renovations as a whole, not piecemeal, and recognize that the city could require changes in the future.

6. Real-estate report

6.1 Tom offers to look into the cost of a trailer, as all kinds of movement will be needed during construction.

6.2 The developer no longer wants to build the interior, and we are negotiating.

6.3 Closing, in Tom's opinion, is 18 months away.

7. Incense

7.1 A motion to discontinue the use of incense in services does not pass. Fr. Shane says he has purchased more fans to use around the choir to blow away smoke and will talk to choir members affected by smoke.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Postscript

Pursuant to 2.5, on Sept. 17, Steve Gribben circulated a proposal that the Vestry approve a contract with Accolades, a website design firm, to remake the parish website. After discussion, the Vestry postponed a decision.