

St Andrew's Anglican Church Vestry Meeting Minutes
Tuesday September 15, 2026
The Reverend Liz Richens in the Chair

The Purpose of the Church is to learn and teach about God, through Scripture; loving God with all our hearts, minds, and strength, and loving our neighbours as ourselves.

St Andrew's Vision is to be a welcoming and nurturing community, using our God-given gifts in service to parish, neighbourhood and the World.

Land Acknowledgement: In this time and place, we gather on the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota people and the homeland of the Red River Metis Nation. As we come from many different places and peoples, we are grateful for their stewardship of the land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work and serve God the Creator, here.

Present: the Reverend Liz Richens, the Reverend Val Christopherson, Pat Gerow, Eric Frederick, Denise Fortier, David Newton, Audrey Kelly, Norma Pittman, Laura Ryback, Shelley Gorets, Roselyn Fortier, Grace McKay, Cindy Ponton, Mervin Budinikas, Doreen Pattie

Regrets: Ken Wardle

Guest: Lynne Spiring-Whitten

The Reverend Liz opened the meeting with prayer, and Matthew 20:1-16 was read, followed by a 'round-the-table' thankfulness.

Approval of the Agenda: under New Business, add Hospitality and New People, Beyond Borders, Lift. Under Reports, add Music/Worship. The Walk Around report was for information.

Motion #1: to approve the amended Agenda for September 15, 2026 Vestry Meeting
Shelley/Norma Carried

Approval of the Minutes of the June 16, 2026 Vestry Meeting.
Audrey/Grace carried

Reports:

Clergy: as previously circulated

Corporation: August and September Minutes as previously circulated

Altar Guild: Norma reviewed the upcoming events

Pastoral Care: as previously circulated

Property Maintenance: as previously circulated. The front door of the church continues to give trouble with the lock.

Mission and Ministry: as previously circulated

Worship and Music: as previously circulated.

Treasurer/Finance: as previously circulated. Greg Taylor from Wood Gundy has confirmed his availability for the Wednesday, October 14th Finance meeting. Vestry is invited to this meeting. Laura R referred to the Finance Meeting minutes and the committee's recommendation that the \$165,734 endowment received, be put into short term investment funds until a final investment decision is made. As well, the committee recommended that the total amount of the endowment be invested when the investment decision is made. Pat remarked that St Andrew's has a very positive surplus now which can be drawn down as needed. In the Financial Report, this endowment is shown as an 'in and out' entry as required. Pat has a template for the Financial Health Report as will appear in the bulletin and online, in April, July and October. It is necessary to maintain offering income at present level for operating expenses and the investment income may be needed to keep St Andrew's doors open. It was suggested that the information for the bulletin be an insert. The Reverend Liz requested that a 'member of the Finance Committee' be available on the Sundays when the insert is inserted. It was asked if there were restrictions on the use of this endowment – no.

Motion #3: that the Financial Report be accepted as previously distributed.

Pat/Cindy

Carried

Timeline: Added to the timeline:

Thursdays 6:30 to 10:00 Cadets

September 20, Townhall re Synod

September 22, Social evening. A get-together. Everyone welcome. A chance to socialize. Bring games, snacks, friends

October 4, 18, 25, November 1, 8, 15, after service after Coffee Hour, the Reverend Rod's six-week session on discovering our spiritual gifts

October 4, 2:00 Pet Blessing

October 15-17, Synod

October 14, Joint Finance and vestry Meeting

October 28, Worship Committee Meeting

November 1, 7:00pm All Souls' service

November 8, Remembrance Day. Office closed

November 28, Pot luck and Tree Lighting

December 5, Vendor Sale

December 8 Advent Celebration. Scott has invited other churches to join together for an evening of Advent celebration

Business arising from the minutes:

Cadets are renting the hall, etc Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 10:00.

Window Cleaning is done and the windows look great.

Parking Lines: Done

Hall Sound System: Money raised

Signing Authority: Done

New Business:

Hospitality and New People: In discussion about how new people might be welcomed and feel comfortable at St Andrew's; for example, a parishioner could sit with them in the pew, help them in finding the hymns, invite them to Coffee Hour, smile and say hello, introduce yourself, wear your name tag. Encouraging the wearing of name tags, Sydney Richens will be standing at the Name Tag table, helping with the finding of name tags, promoting making a name tag, and after the service, will take the box over to the hall so that everyone can leave their name tag in the box, after Coffee hour, and have it available for the next week as Sydney will take the box back to the church after Coffee Hour. A welcoming note is going to be sent to new people who are added to the Parish List. Note the social evening September 22nd

Beyond Borders Haiti: Lynne Spiring-Whitten spoke on her personal observation of the extreme poverty and need in Haiti and how Beyond Borders Haiti works to improve conditions and outcomes, especially for girls and women. BBH is an American organization, but only to facilitate the transfer of funds. This is a grass roots nonprofit organization, founded in 1993, that partners with local leaders and communities in Haiti to build sustainable community led movements for social justice and human rights.

The Core Mission and Focus Areas are

End child servitude: Fights to eradicate 'restavek' system (unpaid domestic servitude) by organizing communities, educating rural families and supporting child protection brigades.

Preventing violence: works to stop gender-based violence, abuse against girls and women by addressing root causes like power imbalances and extreme poverty.

Expanding education: Promotes universal (boys and girls) access to quality education and supports non-violent classroom management training for teachers.

Over coming poverty: uses the Family Graduation Program to equip households with tools and resources needed to secure sustainable livelihood within 24 months.

The Girls' Club, for \$125, supports one woman in this program for a year. It was suggested that Lynne's daughter, Meagan, be asked to speak via Facetime, at a Coffee Hour, of her experience with Beyond Borders Haiti. Agreed. There is also a six-minute video that could be shown.

Motion # 4: That the money collected at Coffee Hour go to Beyond Borders Haiti. If the amount collected does not amount to the \$500 dollars by December 31, 2026, the Budget would then make up the shortfall.

Doreen/Norma Carried

Lift: More people are needed to ensure that there is always someone at the top and the bottom of the lift when there are church services. David will talk to Syd, asking if he is willing to do this job, and if so, David will train Syd.

Name Tags: discussed under Hospitality

Visioning Time: Had been given as 'homework'- New Ways to reach out to our community. It was asked if there was protocol as to what is the next contact. Is there follow up? Acknowledgement that they have been at St Andrew's?

Suggestions:

Volunteers to put up fliers in apartment buildings, advertising what St Andrew's has to offer- the groups, Over-60's, youth organizations

Invite people (friends, etc) that don't come to church, to come to the Coffee Hour, the social evening, Vendor Sale, Bake and Craft Sale

Make available small fliers for the Rummage Sale, to hand out to the customers, listing the events at the church

The Reverend Liz asked for a volunteer to put up some already made posters, along the creek trail, inviting pet owners to come to the Pet Blessing. Lynne volunteered.

The meeting was adjourned with the Grace.

Next Corporation meeting: October 13, 2026, 1:00pm

Next Vestry meeting: October 20, 2026

Note: Vestry is invited to the Finance Meeting Wednesday. October 14, 2026, 7:00pm