



The Episcopal Church of St Thomas the Apostle

Monthly Vestry Meeting - Minutes June 18, 2024

IN ATTENDANCE

Rector

Father Christopher Thomas

Ex-Officio Officers

Joe DeuPree, Treasurer
Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor
(and taking minutes for absent Clerk)

Vestry Members

Alyssa Abadinsky
Rene Aguirre
John Billingsley
Janet Elsea - Senior Warden
Daniel Hall – Junior Warden
Jerry Knight
Jami Mifflin
John Van Buskirk

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- **Approval of Minutes of Prior Vestry Meeting of May 21, 2024**
- **Authorization for expenditure of up to \$1,000 for Cremation Expenses for Robert K. (Bob) Walker**
- **Amendment of Cash Management Policy regarding Counting and Depositing Sunday Morning Donations**

NARRATIVE

I. **Call to Order, Opening Prayer and Devotional Discussion** **Fr. Christopher Thomas**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Fr. Christopher Thomas with a prayer. The attendees read together the Baptismal Covenant and a brief devotional discussion was held regarding which parts of the Sunday service have special meaning to each person.

II. **Resource Person for Meeting** **John VanBuskirk**

III. **Prior Meeting Minutes Approval** **Janet Elsea**

Upon motion by John VanBuskirk, seconded by Alysa Abadinsky, the Vestry unanimously approved the minutes of the May 21, 2024 meeting.

IV. **Finance and Budget Committee** **Joe DeuPree**

The treasurer Joe DeuPree reported that the results of the first 5 months of 2024 have been strong. Income is slightly above budget. Expenses with the exception of "Parish Life" categories are below budget. The budget loss to date is \$6,650. Considerably below the forecasted shortfall of \$28,030

Rusty as Chancellor reported that he had sent out a detailed email (included in the Vestry Packet) updating the Vestry on the death of Robert K. ("Bob") Walker and the status of his body and unfortunate situation that his will was never signed and that he now has an intestate estate with at least 7 "Heirs at Law." Bob had executed a valid "Disposition of Remains" document naming Joe DeuPree as a representative authorized to direct disposition of his body. Unfortunately, because he died intestate and the Parish is not a beneficiary under a valid will, there are no funds to proceed with cremation of Bob's body. Joe suggested that we might make an appeal to the parish to pay the estimated \$1,000 cost of cremation. Rusty as Chancellor explained that the cost of cremation is a valid expense chargeable to the Estate and they when the heirs at law open a probate action the Parish as a creditor can file a request for reimbursement of the cremation expenses

Janet Elsea moved that "The Vestry authorizes expenditure of up to \$1,000 for cremation expenses for Robert K. Walker in view of the fact that Bob was a long-time member in good standing of St. Thomas and a longtime contributor of record to St. Thomas and that the Chancellor be directed to seek reimbursement of the cremation expenses from Bob's estate at the appropriate time. The motion was seconded by John VanBuskirk and passed unanimously.

It was suggested by the Rector and agreed to by general consensus of the Vestry that because the Parish will seek reimbursement of the \$1,000 cremation expense that the \$1,000 be charged to an account receivable and then cleared from books when the reimbursement is received.

Joe proposed an amendment to the Cash Management Policy regarding counting and deposit of funds collected on Sunday mornings. (see Attachment). A general discussion was held regarding the origin of the current Sunday morning counting cash management policy and the proposal for revisions, and it was suggested to purchase a drop box to be used in the proposed new cash management procedure. Rusty suggested that the received checks be stamped "For Deposit Only" on Sunday morning before being placed in the drop box as additional impediment to any potential fraudulent endorsement and attempt to fraudulent cash such checks. **John VanBuskirk moved, and Jerry Knight seconded the Parish Cash Management Procedure be amended as proposed by the Finance committee with the addition of a drop box and "For Deposit Only" endorsement of checks. The motion passed unanimously.**

V. Mission – Outreach Committee

Janet Elsea

Janette reported that the Elm Thicket Juneteenth event was attended by 14 persons from St. Thomas and that St. Thomas provided bottled water to event participants. Janet indicated the pillowcase sewing event will take place on June 22 wherein parishioners make special pillowcases for children in Child Protective Services. The Blessing Bag event will take place at Cathedral of Hope on July 13 wherein the attendees make blessing bags for homeless persons.

VI. Building and Grounds (B&G) Committee

Dan Hall

Dan reported the storm drains have been cleaned and some pipes are crushed but will be repaired. Roof repairs regarding sealing and caulking will begin when the contractor is available. Dan is looking into repair of the water fountains in the parish hall. The city has repaired the water leak upstream of our domestic water meter located on Mockingbird.

VII. Guild Liaisons Reports

- Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers: Jerry Knight reported Michael Legacy still looking for additional crucifers
- Eucharistic Visitors: John Billingsley - No Report
- Altar Guild: Rene Aguirre - No Report
- Greeters/Ushers: Hampton Burwick - Absent- No Report
- Kitchen/Social: Jami Mifflin reported that the nursery has been cleaned. The kitchen will have an inventory taken soon. A deep cleaning of Kitchen will need to be scheduled.
- Lectors (Readers): Alyssa Abadinsky - No report
- Music: Janet Elsea reported that the Doubter's Life Wednesday evening event was a great success and will be continued.

VIII. Rector's Report

Fr. Christopher Thomas

- "Invite-Welcome-Connect" - Hampton Burwick has been added to the committee. Hampton has volunteered to work on training the greeters and ushers to incorporate Invite-Welcome-Connect.
- Shelley Turner has volunteered to lead efforts for "Children's Formation" (formerly known as "Sunday School")
- September 8 will be kick off for parish programs and Invite-Welcome Connect will be embedded in all programs to the extent possible
- Realm will be used for communication and record keeping of Parish ministries/programs and Lee Swift will provide training for Realm.
- Hampton is leading the Audit Committee
- The Vestry retreat will be February 2025 and Janet Elsea volunteered to work on details of the retreat
- More Doubter Live events will be scheduled
- Rector Vacation June 26 – July 11

IX. Stewardship Committee

John VanBuskirk

In gathering Sunday will be October 20, 2024. The committee is John VanBuskirk, Joe DeuPree, Linda VanBuskirk, and Kathy Carstens and possible additional 2 members. The committee will meet prior to in-gathering to mail out stewardship letters and meet after in gathering to telephone members who have not pledged.

X. Book Club

John Billingsley

John reported on the meeting of the group reading the book *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*. There were a number of persons participating that are not members of St. Thomas.

XI. Resource Person for April 16, 2024 Meeting

Fr. Christopher Thomas

Alysa Abadinsky

XII. Compline

Fr. Christopher Thomas

The meeting was closed with Compline at by Fr. Christopher at 8:40 PM.

APPENDIX

- Vestry Meeting Agenda
- Vestry Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2024
- Budget and Finance Committee Report
- Balance Sheet – May 31, 2024
- Income Statement – May 1 – May 31, 2024
- Special Funds Report May 1 – May 31, 2024
- Chancellor's Email: Subject - Bob Walker's Death and Estate
- Mission and Outreach Committee Report of June 11, 2024
- Sermon from June 16, 2024
- Water usage Report – Lee Swift
- Proposed Plan for Handle Sunday Offerings
- The Baptismal Covenant
- Vestry, Ex-Officio Officers, Clergy & Staff, Endowment Fund Committee Listing

Meeting Minutes taken by Russell Rippamonti on behalf of Alberto Galué, Clerk



The Episcopal Church of St Thomas the Apostle

Vestry Meeting Agenda

June 18, 2024

South Room

7:00 pm

“Through the intentional modeling of the baptismal covenant, the Vestry provides a foundation of leadership that promotes the active, vibrant, and transformational ministry of all.”

- *Purpose Statement of the 2024 Vestry*

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|--|-------------------------------------|
| I) Call to Order/Opening Prayer | The Rev. Christopher Thomas, Rector |
| II) Resource Person for Meeting | John Van Buskirk |
| III) Meditation/Contemplation | The Rector |
| IV) Prior Meeting Minutes Approval | Janet Elsea, Senior Warden |
| V) Finance Committee – (15 min, May financials attached) | Joe DeuPree, Treasurer |
| a.) Chancellor Updates | |
| VI) Mission - Outreach Committee | Senior Warden |
| VII) B&G Committee – (15 min) | Dan Hall, Junior Warden |
| VIII) Guild Liaisons Reports (10 min) | |
| a) Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers: Jerry Knight | |
| b) Eucharistic Visitors: John Billingsley | |
| c) Altar Guild: Rene Aguirre | |
| d) Greeters/Ushers: Hampton Burwick | |
| e) Kitchen/Social: Jami Mifflin | |
| f) Lectors (Readers): Alyssa Abadinsky | |
| g) Music: Janet Elsea | |
| IX) Rector's Report (20 min) | The Rector |
| a) Planning Committee for Vestry Retreat 2025 | |
| b) Rector Summer Holiday – (June 26 – July 10) | |
| c) Updates on Audit & Stewardship | |
| d) Fall Kick-Off (September 8) | |
| X) Resource Person for July 16, 2024 Meeting | TBD |
| XI) Compline | The Rector |
| XII) Dismissal | The Rector |

MONTHLY VESTRY MEETING – MINUTES

May 21, 2024

In Attendance

Father Christopher Thomas
Deacon Jennifer Smith
Member John Billingsley
Member Hampton Burwick
Member Janet Elsea – Senior Warden
Member Dan Hall – Junior Warden
Member Jerry Knight
Member Jami Mifflin
Member John VanBuskirk
Treasurer Joe DeuPree

Summary of Actions Taken and Significant Events

Approval of Minutes of April Vestry Meeting
Approval of Three Resolutions

Narrative

1. **Call to Order and Opening Prayer**

The meeting was called to order by the Rector at 7:03 p.m. who led the Vestry in a prayer and discussion of the Baptismal Covenant. It was confirmed that a quorum was present with members Alyssa Abadinsky and Rene Aguirre absent.

2. **Resource Person for Meeting**

Hampton Burwick

3. **Prior Meeting Minutes Approved**

Janet Elsea

After a review of the minutes of the April meeting, motion was made by Hampton Burwick, seconded by Jami Mifflin, that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Budget and Finance Committee**

Joe DeuPree

The Treasurer reported that pledges for the period were about \$5,000 under what had been budgeted for the period but the income for the period was only about \$4,000 under budget. Total expenses were approximately \$15,000 above the budget for the four month period.

The Treasurer, on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee, recommended that Account 3020, called Special Outreach with a balance of \$4654.14 is actually for Mission Outreach and should be renamed that. He also indicated that the amount contained in it should be moved into account 5180, Outreach Grants, that had been designated in the budget for 2024, and approved by the Vestry at its December 2023 meeting. He also recommended that Account 3075, Interior Garden, with a balance of \$339.00 and Account 3085, KB Polk Fund, with a balance of \$1550.25 should be closed out with their

balances transferred into the newly named Account 3020, Mission Outreach. Motion was made by John VanBuskirk, seconded by Jerry Knight, and approved unanimously.

The Treasurer also reported that Account 3030, named Miscellaneous Gifts Fund, mostly contains a \$15,000 donation to create a Rector's Speakers Fund. Motion was made by John VanBuskirk, seconded by Hampton Burwick, that the Account 3030, Miscellaneous Gifts Fund, be redesignated Rector's Speakers Fund. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Budget and Finance Committee recommended the following resolution be adopted:

"Whereas the Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle from time to time receives bequests in Wills and/or proceeds from Life Insurance Policies that have NOT been designated by the donor for a restricted use or NOT designated directly to the Endowment Fund;

"Therefore, the Vestry authorizes and directs the Treasurer and Controller to have these unrestricted and/or undesignated gifts be deposited in the Inwood National Bank account and the funds credited to the Memorial Fund Account (Account #3060);

"Furthermore, the Vestry authorizes and requests that the Senior Warden or Rector send a letter to the donor representative acknowledging and thanking the donor for such gift."

Motion was made by John VanBuskirk, seconded by Jerry Knight, to approve the subject resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Mission and Outreach Committee

Janet Elsea

At its May 14th meeting, the committee discussed the following topics:

Pride Festival, June 1, 2024 – There was a discussion that perhaps St. Thomas and the Cathedral of Hope might join together on a mutual activity, but that was deemed not be possible by COH. No one ever stepped up from the parish to be in charge of our possible Pride so we will not be having a presence this year.

The 14th Annual Elm Thicket/Northpark Juneteenth Festival will be held on June 15th, with The parade beginning at 10:00 a.m. Our presence is needed from 9:00 a.m. until noon. It will be held near the KB Polk Recreation Center with 200 to 300 people expected to Attend. St. Thomas will provide cold bottled water and we need parishioners to sign up To bring the water before 9:00 a.m.

The Flaming Dish Dessert Auction held on May 19th raised approximately \$1400; payment By QR code went well.

Next Blessing Bag event at Cathedral of Home will be July 13th at 10:30 a.m.

6. Building and Grounds (B&G) Committee

Junior Warden Dan Hall gave a report updating the numerous issues that he has been working on since last month's meeting. The biggest progress has been with excess water

that we have been experiencing. Drains have been or will be cleaned out around the property. Various areas that were damp or wet are now dry. Three HVAC units are of an age that will ultimately require that units be replaced. Conover Heating and Air, our HVAC contractor, has provided an estimate of \$47,000 for the three. They will not all have to be done at one time. Dan will be working with roofers to see that those portions of our roofs that need to be addressed will be. He also thanked Ruth Woodward for her gift of plants that she will plant in the beds in and around the north parking lot and office/North Room wing.

7. Guild Liaisons Reports

Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers: Nothing new to report

Eucharistic Visitors: A new volunteer has joined the Guild.

Altar Guild: Liaison Rene Aguirre was not present.

Greeters/Ushers: Hampton indicated he is going to be working directly with the Greeters with some training and other enhancements. The Greeters and Ushers will be separated in the near future.

Kitchen/Social: Jami has discovered the joy of texting as a form of communication with members of this Guild.

Lectors (Readers): Liaison Alyssa Abadinsky was not present.

Legal Matters: Chancellor Rusty Rippamonti was not present.

8. Rector's Report

Father Christopher Thomas

Invite-Welcome-Connect Weekend: It was deemed a huge success.

Music Ministry's Variety Show – June 12: All were encouraged to either participate with a talent or at least attend.

Vestry Retreat: This will be a topic for us to discuss at next month's meeting.

9. Resource Person for June 18, 2024 Meeting: John VanBuskirk

10. Compline – Led by the Rector.

11. Dismissal – The meeting was adjourned

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
JUNE 18, 2024

The results of the first five months of operation continues to be strong. Income is strong and is slightly higher than what had been budgeted for the period. Expenses, with the exception of “Parish Life”, are also under budget for the period. Our anticipated loss for the period was \$28,030 while year to date was only \$6,650. Still a “loss”, but much lower.

The Committee received an update on the death of long-time member, Robert (Bob) Walker, who unfortunately died “intestate”, though he left the draft of a will that was never signed. He had intended for the parish to be the recipient of all proceeds from his estate. That had been expressed to several people over several years and the unsigned will indicated that, but he just never got it signed. He has a niche in the columbarium. The Committee feels that the parish should be aware of this situation and believe a plea for funding should go out in order to cover the cost of cremation. It is anticipated that the cost will be around \$1,000.00.

The Committee discussed a plan to change the way Sunday offerings are handled. That plan will be presented at Tuesday’s meeting for the Vestry’s consideration and adoption.

Balance Sheet

As of: May 31st 2024 | Includes Open Transactions

Assets

Current Assets

Cash

1013 Inwood National Bank	134,946.58
1014 Inwood Bank-Operating	31,260.69
1015 Inwood Nat'l Bank-RMF	6,783.99

Total Cash 172,991.26

Total Current Assets 172,991.26

Investments

1045 Episcopal Foundation of Dallas	351,712.50
1050 Fidelity	117,167.50

Total Investments 468,880.00

Prepaid Expenses

1095 Prepaid Expenses	3,046.58
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Total Prepaid Expenses 3,046.58

Total Assets

\$ 644,917.84

Liabilities & Net Assets

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable

2220 Employee Pension Deduction	172.80
2399 Income/Expense Clearing	5,890.89

Total Accounts Payable 6,063.69

Total Current Liabilities 6,063.69

Deferred Revenue

2405 Prepaid Pledges	15,750.00
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Total Deferred Revenue 15,750.00

Total Liabilities 21,813.69

Net Assets

Fund Balance

3000 General Fund	4,957.61
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Total Fund Balance 4,957.61

Temp Restricted-Church Designated

3005 Flower Fund	2,925.53
3010 Reserve Fund	18,735.11
3020 Mission Outreach	6,543.39
3030 Rector's Speaker Fund	13,295.81
3040 Rector's Ministry Fund	6,270.59
3060 Memorial Fund	125,804.27

Total Temp Restricted-Church Designated 173,574.70

Perm Restricted

3050 Capital Improvement	535.74
3070 Columbarium Fund	3,128.72
3090 Endowment Fund	317,198.61
3091 Knight-Flake Organ/Garden Fund	59,877.82
3093 Ewing House	(1,112.62)
3094 Ron Wilkenson Garden Color	1,000.00

Total Perm Restricted 380,628.27

Temp Restricted-Accum Surplus	
8998 Investments Mark To Mkt	63,943.57
Total Temp Restricted-Accum Surplus	63,943.57
Total Net Assets	623,104.15
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 644,917.84

Income Statement

Date Range: May 1st 2024 - May 31st 2024 | Includes Open Transactions

Accounts	Actual May 01, 2024 - May 31, 2024	Actual This Year Year to Date	Budget This Year Year to Date	Annual Budget This Year Year
Revenues				
General Receipts				
4000 Pledge Income	32,880.08	134,820.15	134,080.85	321,794.00
4010 Plate Income	205.00	1,170.25	2,083.35	5,000.00
4012 Non pledged donations	500.00	2,986.21	2,083.35	5,000.00
4092 Easter	0.00	540.00	0.00	0.00
Total General Receipts	33,585.08	139,516.61	138,247.55	331,794.00
Other Income				
4030 Interest Income	36.49	170.23	833.35	2,000.00
4040 Other Income	0.00	77.22	208.35	500.00
4120 Budgeted trans-Special Outreach	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,654.14
Total Other Income	36.49	247.45	1,041.70	7,154.14
Misc Income				
4020 Building Use	5.28	1,799.42	625.00	1,500.00
Total Misc Income	5.28	1,799.42	625.00	1,500.00
Total Revenues	\$ 33,626.85	\$ 141,563.48	\$ 139,914.25	\$ 340,448.14
Expenses				
Personnel Expenses				
5000 Rector-Stipend & taxes	8,333.34	41,666.70	41,666.65	100,000.00
5002 Rector-Pension	1,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	18,000.00
5003 Rector- Benefits	1,182.00	6,142.40	6,250.00	15,000.00
5004 Rector- Travel & Telephone	0.00	104.10	1,666.65	4,000.00
5006 Rector-Continuing Ed	0.00	300.00	416.65	1,000.00
5009 Rector-Miscellaneous	0.00	89.17	416.65	1,000.00
5020 Supply Clergy	0.00	500.00	333.35	800.00
5030 Parish Admin	2,224.80	10,876.80	10,712.50	25,710.00
5035 Organist	2,083.33	10,416.65	10,416.65	25,000.00
5037 Supply Musician	0.00	825.00	833.35	2,000.00
5039 Payroll Taxes	344.88	1,728.43	1,616.65	3,880.00
5040 Lay Staff-Pension	200.23	978.91	964.15	2,314.00
5041 Lay Staff- Continuing Ed	0.00	0.00	625.00	1,500.00
5042 Audio Visual Svcs	200.00	1,300.00	1,250.00	3,000.00
5105 Managing Financial Reports	600.00	3,250.00	3,437.50	8,250.00
Total Personnel Expenses	16,668.58	85,678.16	88,105.75	211,454.00
Office Expense				
5100 Office Supplies & Paper	239.84	772.48	1,250.00	3,000.00
5102 Office Equipment Maint	647.73	2,361.01	1,458.35	3,500.00
5104 Technology	129.00	1,533.70	1,666.65	4,000.00
5106 Postage	40.80	317.33	625.00	1,500.00
5107 Bank & Paychex Charges	26.03	281.14	833.35	2,000.00
5108 Credit Card Donation fees	207.59	1,278.77	833.35	2,000.00
5109 Miscellaneous	0.00	155.07	125.00	300.00
Total Office Expense	1,290.99	6,699.50	6,791.70	16,300.00
Insurance				
5110 Property & Liability Ins	1,829.33	8,098.91	8,500.00	20,400.00

Accounts	Actual May 01, 2024 - May 31, 2024	Actual This Year Year to Date	Budget This Year Year to Date	Annual Budget This Year Year
Total Insurance	1,829.33	8,098.91	8,500.00	20,400.00
Worship Expense				
5120 Altar Supplies	(198.05)	204.17	833.35	2,000.00
5125 Organ/Piano	0.00	0.00	416.65	1,000.00
5127 Choir Music Supplies	19.75	357.69	208.35	500.00
Total Worship Expense	(178.30)	561.86	1,458.35	3,500.00
Parish Life Exp				
5130 Convention	0.00	433.50	187.50	450.00
5131 Christian Education	10.48	115.53	208.35	500.00
5132 EPN Membership Dues	0.00	0.00	312.50	750.00
5133 Vestry Retreat/Other	990.00	1,029.56	500.00	1,200.00
5134 EPN Conference	0.00	2,356.21	1,250.00	3,000.00
5135 Social	70.17	180.69	833.35	2,000.00
5136 Coffee	0.00	191.18	333.35	800.00
5137 Parish Life Other Exp	287.90	482.79	416.65	1,000.00
5138 Choir Dinner	0.00	0.00	83.35	200.00
5139 Vestry	0.00	20.00	416.65	1,000.00
Total Parish Life Exp	1,358.55	4,809.46	4,541.70	10,900.00
Buildings & Grounds				
5140 Custodial Supplies	0.00	269.39	208.35	500.00
5144 Capital Improvement Exp	0.00	0.00	2,083.35	5,000.00
5145 Maint-Bldgs & Equipment	1,270.00	2,822.77	4,791.65	11,500.00
5147 Janitorial Service	824.00	4,120.00	5,333.35	12,800.00
5148 Maint-Grounds	570.00	5,295.00	6,250.00	15,000.00
5149 Pest Control	96.00	480.00	833.35	2,000.00
Total Buildings & Grounds	2,760.00	12,987.16	19,500.05	46,800.00
Utilities				
5150 Telephone & Internet	281.76	1,780.65	2,083.35	5,000.00
5152 Electricity	698.41	3,092.60	5,000.00	12,000.00
5154 Water & Sewer 6525	276.46	1,233.03	2,083.35	5,000.00
5155 Water- 6529	225.39	1,656.60	6,250.00	15,000.00
5156 Natural Gas	125.11	646.40	1,187.50	2,850.00
5158 Safety, Security, & Fire Alarms	184.60	4,086.97	2,916.65	7,000.00
5159 Waste services	302.43	1,514.17	1,666.65	4,000.00
Total Utilities	2,094.16	14,010.42	21,187.50	50,850.00
Outreach				
5160 Stewardship	0.00	0.00	208.35	500.00
5162 Advertising/Welcoming	0.00	508.55	833.35	2,000.00
5164 Social Media/Web	833.00	2,083.00	833.35	2,000.00
5165 Diocesan Assessment	2,555.34	12,776.70	12,776.65	30,664.00
5179 Outreach Expenses	0.00	0.00	1,125.00	2,700.00
5180 Outreach Grants	0.00	0.00	2,083.35	5,000.00
Total Outreach	3,388.34	15,368.25	17,860.05	42,864.00
Total Expenses	\$ 29,211.65	\$ 148,213.72	\$ 167,945.10	\$ 403,068.00
Net Total	\$ 4,415.20	(\$ 6,650.24)	(\$ 28,030.85)	(\$ 62,619.86)

The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle
Special Funds

Date Range: May 1st 2024 - May 31st 2024 | Includes Open Transactions

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
Restricted Net Assets				
Temp Restricted-Church Designated				
01-3005 Flower Fund	3,152.43	575.00	801.90	2,925.53
01-3010 Reserve Fund	18,735.11	0.00	0.00	18,735.11
01-3020 Mission Outreach	4,654.14	1,889.25	0.00	6,543.39
01-3030 Rector's Speaker Fund	14,163.78	0.00	867.97	13,295.81
01-3040 Rector's Ministry Fund	16,075.59	195.00	10,000.00	6,270.59
01-3060 Memorial Fund	122,804.27	6,000.00	3,000.00	125,804.27
Total Temp Restricted-Church Designated	179,585.32	8,659.25	14,669.87	173,574.70
Perm Restricted				
01-3050 Capital Improvement	535.74	0.00	0.00	535.74
01-3070 Columbarium Fund	3,172.33	0.00	43.61	3,128.72
01-3075 Interior Garden	339.00	0.00	339.00	0.00
01-3085 KB Polk Fund	1,550.25	0.00	1,550.25	0.00
01-3090 Endowment Fund	317,198.61	0.00	0.00	317,198.61
01-3091 Knight-Flake Organ/Garden Fund	59,877.82	0.00	0.00	59,877.82
01-3093 Ewing House	(1,112.62)	0.00	0.00	(1,112.62)
01-3094 Ron Wilkenson Garden Color	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Total Perm Restricted	382,561.13	0.00	1,932.86	380,628.27
Temp Restricted-Accum Surplus				
01-8998 Investments Mark To Mkt	51,401.38	12,697.72	155.53	63,943.57
Total Temp Restricted-Accum Surplus	51,401.38	12,697.72	155.53	63,943.57
Total Restricted Net Assets	\$ 613,547.83	\$ 21,356.97	\$ 16,758.26	\$ 618,146.54



Christopher Thomas <christopher@thedoubter.org>

Important: Report to Vestry on Bob Walker's Death and Estate

1 message

rusty.rippamonti@gmail.com <rusty.rippamonti@gmail.com>

Mon, Jun 17, 2024 at 3:14 PM

To: JOE DEUPREE <jdeupree953@gmail.com>, Christopher Thomas <christopher@thedoubter.org>, Janet Page <janetepage@icloud.com>, Janet Elsea <janetepage@me.com>, Alyssa Montague <alyssa.m.monty@gmail.com>, Renickles <reneaguirre89@gmail.com>, John billingsley <48jrbi@gmail.com>, HAMPTON L BURWICK <hburwick@sbcglobal.net>, Dan Hall <dhtexas@gmail.com>, Jerry Knight <jknight58@sbcglobal.net>, Jami Mifflin <mjmillon@sbcglobal.net>, John VanBuskirk <john47@tx.rr.com>

Cc: RUTH WOODWARD <ruthkwoodward@aol.com>, Stephen Waller <alcuinsman@aol.com>, kcarney@aol.com, Lee Swift <leeswift@thedoubter.org>, Laura Giffin <laura@thedoubter.org>, "Dcn. Jennifer Smith" <jennifer@thedoubter.org>, al.galue@gmail.com

Robert K ("Bob") Walker was born 12/21/41 and died on or about 5/25/24 in Dallas County. His body is located in the Dallas County Morgue.

Please understand that I was a Patent and Trademark attorney for 30 years and not a Will and Estates attorney. My comments, conclusions and suggestions are subject to review and revision by an Estate attorney.

- 1. Disposition of Remains:** Bob Executed a valid Disposition of Remains document prepared by attorney John VanBuskirk appointing Stephen Toon as first representative with Joe DeuPree as second authorized representative. Stephen Toon has withdrawn. Joe and Fr. Christopher are considering claiming the body and arranging for cremation. Fr. Christopher in his discretion as Rector may conduct a memorial service and have Bob's ashes placed in the columbarium niche that Bob owns at St. Thomas. The upfront cost of the cremation might need to be borne initially by St. Thomas. St. Thomas can and should file for reimbursement for the cremation expenses from Bob's Estate.
- 2. Draft Will:** A draft will was prepared for Bob by John VanBuskirk around July 8, 2023. Bob executed the ancillary Medical POA, a durable POA and the Disposition of Remains documents in 2023. However, Bob never executed the draft will. A copy of the draft will as prepared by John was recently found on Bob Walker's coffee table in Bob's home. The will was unsigned and not initialed and has some minor mark-up changes in Bob's handwriting. It is my initial impression that Bob was trying to revise the draft will and not execute it. Therefore, it is an unexecuted draft will and is not suitable for probate and will not pass title for anything to St. Thomas as his intended beneficiary.
- 3. Previous 1972 Will:** I have in my possession an old 1972 properly executed will by Bob. He named 2 beneficiaries: his mother Dorothy Lee Gilleland (maiden name) Walker and his former partner Charles Robert Manning. Ruth and Fr. Stephen agree that both beneficiaries are now dead. Therefore that will cannot pass title to anything to these deceased named beneficiaries because they died before Bob (Note: The Anti-lapse statute in the Estates Code only applies to children/grandchildren of the Testator and siblings of the Testator and does not apply to Bob's situation since he had no children or siblings). Even though the will cannot pass title to the named beneficiaries, I as current custodian of the will must file it of record in Dallas county and will do so in due course. The will did name an INDEPENDENT executor Charles Robert Manning. We have not been able to determine if Manning is alive. If the named executor is still alive and physically and mentally able to serve as executor, it might be useful to get a probate judge to appoint this person as an Independent executor. If this named executor is not alive and since there is no other valid will, the probate judge will have to appoint an "administrator" of the judge's choosing or a person recommend by some of the heirs at law. This administrator would be under court supervision and the administration of estate fees can escalate significantly.
- 4. Intestate Estate:** Since the draft will was never executed and the beneficiaries of the 1972 will are all deceased, it is my opinion that it is likely that Bob will be considered to have died intestate without a will and his "heirs at law" under the statutory probate laws of Texas will receive the net proceeds of his estate. Hence determining who these heirs are is worthwhile as a help to them and perhaps possibly to St. Thomas. It might be possible to approach the heirs at law and ask them to consider making a donation of part of the estate to St. Thomas since Bob was trying to put in place a will leaving his estate to St. Thomas. This might be wishful thinking especially considering that there are 7 heirs at law that are his first cousins and children of deceased first cousins from both his maternal and paternal family lines. Many of these cousins may not

know each other. It is important to understand that to deal with this intestate situation might require \$10,000 to \$20,000 or more in legal fees. There are provisions in the Texas probate code to deal with small estates that have very straight forward "Heirs at Law" by using an "Affidavit of Heirship." This is a situation where a disinterested third party has known the deceased person for a long time and is able to sign a notarized affidavit of heirship stating facts such as the deceased only had 3 children and names them in the Affidavit, etc. My grandfather's estate was handled this way. However, I doubt such provisions are applicable to Bob's situation since the heirs are Bob's first cousins and children of Bob's first cousins ("first cousins once removed") The very sad thing is this matter could have had a very clear and smooth outcome if Bob had executed his will. However, hind sight is always 20/20.

5. Determinations of Heirs at Law for the Intestate decedent person Bob Walker:

Keith Carney with assistance of Ruth Woodward and Fr. Stephen did some genealogy research via ancestry.com and public records and Keith has prepared the family tree that is attached to this document. Per Texas Estates code Chapter 201.001(f), if a person dies without a valid will and has no children or siblings or surviving parents, then following is the descent and distribution of the estate: "The estate is divided into two moieties, one for the person's paternal relatives and the other for the person's maternal relatives. Therefore, it is possible that the following will be the percentage ownership of various living relatives of Bob Walker. Note: Estates code 201.101 might apply and slightly modifies the ownership percentages on the maternal line. I have also included the alternate percentages in the below summary. A qualified estates attorney may be able to clarify the exact ownership. I do not recommend that the Parish become directly involved in the probate of the estate. The Parish has no legal standing to do so because the Parish is not an heir at law and there is not a valid will leaving any interest in the estate to St. Thomas. St. Thomas may be a creditor regarding the cremation fees and have a claim for reimbursement from the estate.

A. Paternal Line

Bob's father had a brother Jack Kennerth Walker who is dead and had no kids and a sister Mary Louise Walker married to Daniel Depmore. It appears that Mary Louise had 2 sons. Therefore, Bob's first cousin **Danel Benjamin Depmore Jr.** would inherit $1/2 \times 1/2 = 1/4$ of Bob's estate and his brother **David Kenneth Depmore** would inherit $1/2 \times 1/2 = 1/4$ of Bob's estate. Note we have an address for David Depmore at 1801 Broken Shoe Cove, Round Rock Texas. But correspondence noted he was moving to San Marcos.

B. Maternal line

Bob's mother had a brother and 2 sisters. The brother William Grayson Gilleland and his wife Doris Alexaner had 2 daughters. Bob's cousin **Patricia Gilleland McCarty** $1/2 \times 1/3 \times 1/2 = 1/12$ (alternatively $1/2 \times 1/4 = 1/8$) and Bob's cousin **Barbara Jean Hedlund** $1/2 \times 1/3 \times 1/2 = 1/12$ (alternatively $1/2 \times 1/4 = 1/8$); Note we have a Christmas card with the address for Pat McCarty at 3801 Greentrails So., Austin Texas 78731

A first sister Margaret Bell Gilleland married Louis John "Jay" Hilscher and had one child John Stephen Hilscher (Bob's first cousin) who died in 2012 and left 2 children Bob's first cousin once removed **Josh Hilscher** $1/2 \times 1/2 \times 1/3 = 1/12$ (alternatively $1/2 \times 1/4 \times 1/2 = 1/16$) and Bob's first cousin once removed **Matt Hilscher** $1/2 \times 1/3 \times 1/2 = 1/12$ (alternatively $1/2 \times 1/4 \times 1/2 = 1/16$); note we have an address for a Cathey Hilscher who is likely married to Josh or Matt at 110 Arthur Kennedale, Tex 76060

A second sister Bonnie Marie Gilleland married Joseph Wheeler Harris and had one son Bob's first cousin **Michael Glen Harris** $1/2 \times 1/3 = 1/6$ (alternatively $1/2 \times 1/4 = 1/8$).

Therefore, there are 7 likely heirs (5 first cousins and 2 first cousins once removed).

6. **Total value of Estate:** We are not sure what the value of Bob's estate. It appears that his condo may be worth \$225,000 (after sale expenses) and a \$74,000 life insurance policy. We are not sure about any bank or savings accounts or IRA accounts. **Total estate about \$300,000 before attorneys fees and costs of administration.**

7. Recommendations:

- A. Proceed with Joe and Fr. Christopher claiming the body and arranging the cremation and having a memorial service and placing the ashes in Bob's columbarium niche at St. Thomas. File a reimbursement claim with the estate when possible for the \$900+/- cost of the cremation,
- B. **Probate/ Attorney Fees:** Because we do not know if the named executor of the 1972 will is alive (and even if he is alive he likely would be in his 70s or 80s and may not want to serve as an executor of an intestate estate with at least 7 heirs) it is reasonable to assume that the probate judge will need to appoint an administrator and there will be a dependent (not independent administration) of the estate. Because it is likely that Bob's paternal first cousins may not know Bob's maternal first cousins and it is not clear that the maternal cousins and first cousins once removed know each other, trying to get all 7 heirs at law to agree on waiving their rights in favor of the St. Thomas or even agreement among themselves on what attorney to have represent the estate will be complicated and expensive. An estimate is at least \$20,000 and perhaps more will be involved legal and probate fees.
- C. **Possible Course of Action:** Attempt to locate addresses for all 7 heirs and send a joint letter on church letter head from Fr. Christopher and me as Chancellor to the heirs advising them of Bob's death and that a member of the church has a valid Disposition of Remains document that authorizes Bob's wishes for cremation and a memorial service and interment in the St. Thomas columbarium and invite the relatives to the memorial service. Advise that St. Thomas will initially pay the cost of the cremation and will seek reimbursement for costs of the cremation from the estate. Advise in the same letter that Bob has a will from 1972 that leaves his estate to his mother and his former partner who are both now deceased so that will is not effective for settlement of his estate. Advise that Bob indicated to a number of persons at St. Thomas that it was his desire to leave his estate to St. Thomas and that he hired an attorney who prepared and provided a draft will to Bob leaving his estate to St. Thomas. However, Bob died without executing the draft will, therefore the named individuals to whom the letter is addressed are likely heirs at law for Bob's estate and should likely hire an estate attorney to advise them and about settling Bob's estate. St. Thomas would appreciate gifts of any portion of Bob's estate and or monetary gifts from any of Bob's heirs at law.

Note: This email is intended to set forth the facts for the Vestry and I am open to your thoughts and comments and suggestions about how best to proceed.

Sincerely,

Rusty Rippamonti

Chancellor



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Mission and Outreach Committee

June 11, 2024

Attendees: Virginia Holleman, Steve Toon, Steve Sale, Rene Aguirre, Janet Elsea

1. 14th Annual Elm Thicket/NorthPark Juneteenth Festival; June 15; parade at 10 am
 - a. Our presence needed from 9-12
 - b. KB Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper St
 - c. St. Thomas to provide cold bottled water.
2. Question was raised about to whom our grant money will be given, and Steve Sale suggested we again support "Elevate," an organization which helps young people aging out of foster care.
3. Virginia suggested we get ready for school supply drive. We plan to see if KB Polk needs our help.
4. Pillowcase event set for June 22nd
5. Next Blessing Bag event at Cathedral of Hope July 13 at 10:30

Christopher Thomas

Sermon for the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B – 6/16/24

1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13

Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5:6-10, [11-13], 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

The Scandalous Journey of Grace

“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see!”

- John Newton, 1772

If ever there were a seed planter's hymn, it must have been “Amazing Grace,” for what could possibly get seed up out of the dirt of earth but the sheer Grace of something outside of, beyond, me, or we, any of the best that the world might have to offer. Seed-work is hard, and toilsome, and backbreaking.

Clear a field. Plow some dirt. Dig a hole. Drop some seed.

Ah! That seed! The miracle of life. Where did it come from? What will it be? Who knows? Who cares? It gets to be, it came to me, through Grace!

Drop that seed, plant, and water, and wait.

And weed.

And wait.

And water.

And wait.

And weed, and water, and weed, and water.

And wait.

Stand back. Stay back. Away. God, and Grace, and I are doing something holy, planting.

For it is all of those things, grace, that space for holy things to happen, that God gives to us so freely, so willingly, so awe-fully, whether we expect it, and when we least.

Grace. The Grace that taught my heart to love. The Grace so freely given.

My Grandmother Johny Frank, the one with the queer name, knew seed-planting, for she planted the seed of my soul in life, to be whom and what God wanted and would need for me to be. And

so, she steered me early on away from words like "wretch," because she knew that words of judgment like "wretch" applied to me would become a weed in her gardening of me, and so this hymn was not a regular part of her watering.

Grace reverberated through her bones; she knew every "old, old story" but refused to be bound by some worn out glory, rather set free by the ancientness, the ever-flowing, life-giving presence of God's Grace. And she would have nothing less for any seed that God had entrusted to her planting prowess.

I find myself wondering for that seed-planter, her hopes, her dreams, her fears, her expectations, for what might come of the seed. For, in truth (because, unfortunately, Grace never releases us from the realities of truth), all the weeding, all the watering, all the cultivating, all the patience, only serve to give the seed-planter some illusion of control.

The great oxymoron – we are not in control, and yet we are; we are not the Creator, and yet we co-create; we have this thing called free will that is always and forever interlaced with "the world."

Could Grace be the social lubrication that allows the gardener's hoe to slip through the gardener's hand and yet simultaneously grip it, hold on tight to it, controlling when necessary, releasing when needed?

Samuel ruminates hoeing over and across the ash-heap of Saul's wretched failure of a kingship.

God's people, the seed of Israel, beg for a king, in the style of the world, mighty in battle and greatness and authority, and so, God relents, "if a king is what you want, here is Saul." Oh, he looks like the world, and smells like the world, and acts like the world, and for all intents and purposes, Saul is the world. Royalty. The seed gets what the seed asks for – the world.

Every now and then (ok, maybe more than every now and then), the seed, or the seed-planter, or maybe even the Creator of all these things, of everything, *metamelomai*, deeply, remorsefully, "life-changingly" regret. Turn around.

There is something in that regret, that turning, that makes the space for Grace, but the regret is not, in fact, Grace itself. For God's regret could very well frighten us, beyond existence, as it once did, were it not for the ever-blessed gift of the rainbow. The rainbow that says, "I will never again destroy every living creature as I have done in the past (and most certainly could do again). As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, none of these shall cease." Life will go on, because of Grace, the Grace that flies under the banner of a rainbow flag.

It bears remembering that it doesn't feel that way, like life will go on, when you're sitting in regret, which is a necessary place to sit, stirring around, digging through the ash-heap of failure. You know what I'm talking about. Because you can't see Grace, feel Grace, know Grace, unless you've cleared out the worldly idols and positioned yourself toward Grace. There is simply no space or room for Grace within the strictures and the structures of "the world."

And then it's time to get up and move on, for seed will not plant, and water, and weed, and grow, and nurture, and stir itself into the fullness of harvest. It simply will not.

"How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel."
"What I have really rejected is YOUR imagination of king!" "Gird up your loins and let's move on!"
"This time we're going to try another type of leader, a different kind, the kind that I, God, have in mind."

The last time we went in search of a king, the king of expectation was royalty, with all the attendant trappings, and that king turned out to be an abysmal failure, a wretch. What if we looked toward the edges, just over the horizon, to something, or someone beyond our expectation, of what royalty, of what leadership, of what "the kingdom," God's kingdom, might look like? What if we looked to the eighth son of Jesse, studiously seed-planting sheep, way out in a far-flung field, somewhere?

The rainbow flag that is David's lineage should give each and every one of us hope that Grace, God's Grace, is alive, and well, and thriving, and flourishing! For David's blood runs thick with every margin-bound, margin-borne, immigrant, and adulterer, and prostitute, and carpenter, and criminal you can possibly conjure up, wretches of every single shape and size, maybe even you and me! David's family tree has them all! Can you imagine the family crest?

Grace, from sinners, from adulterers, from prostitutes, from carpenters, from criminals, from immigrants, from all those poor wretches who do not look, or smell, or touch, or taste, or feel, like me, Grace, from them? Seriously?

The kingdom of God is as crazy as someone throwing seed on the ground and going to sleep and the next day having a harvest.

The kingdom of God is as crazy as the smallest seed on earth bringing forth the greatest of shrubs, creating haven and shade for all creation.

The kingdom of God is as crazy as kings becoming wretches and wretches becoming kings.

The kingdom of God is as crazy as Grace, God's unmitigated, unbounded, undeserved, unlimited, unrelenting, never-ending Grace.

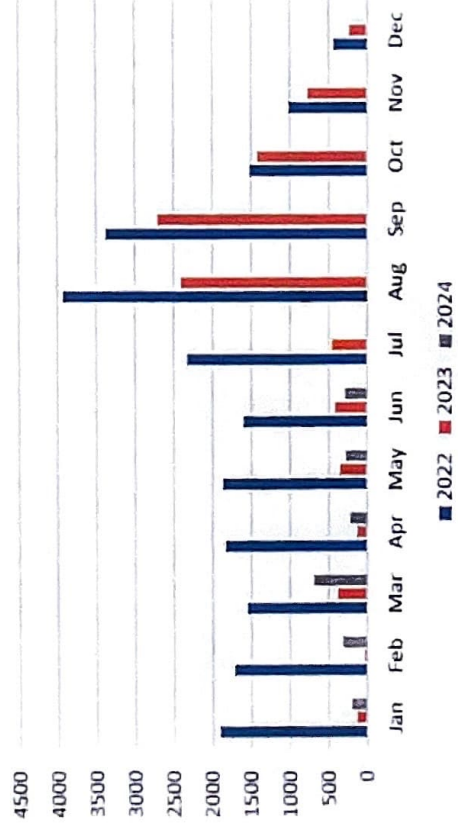
For after all, I am just one seedling sinner saved by your Grace.

Amen.

Usage 100 Gals

	2022	2023	2024
Jan	1906	128	196
Feb	1714	28	318
Mar	1546	378	691
Apr	1826	122	217
May	1864	348	281
Jun	1598	416	291
Jul	2323	455	0
Aug	3921	2406	0
Sep	3368	2709	0
Oct	1518	1422	0
Nov	1011	771	0
Dec	438	229	0

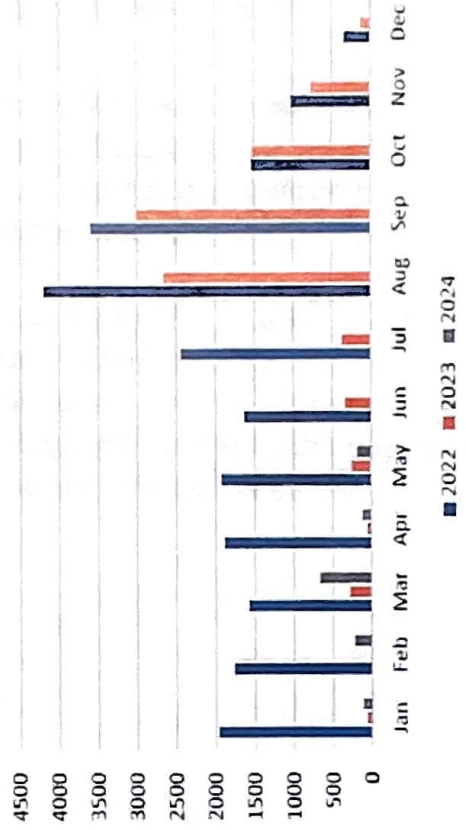
Water Usage



Water Usage Charge

	2022	2023	2024
Jan	1962.75	50.54	109.84
Feb	1758.3	9.91	220.9
Mar	1570.48	279.31	669.83
Apr	1879.95	46.18	116.68
May	1919.46	249.06	178.74
Jun	1625.54	331.56	
Jul	2434.95	375.17	0
Aug	4196.06	2661.24	0
Sep	3592.9	3013.58	0
Oct	1528.84	1525.94	0
Nov	1017.64	765.86	0
Dec	334.36	118.75	0

Water Usage Charge



PROPOSED PLAN FOR HANDLING SUNDAY OFFERINGS

Those two Vestry persons assigned for that Sunday should collect those funds after the service concludes and together take them to the office where they will be placed in an envelope, sealed and signed, and placed in the bottom locked drawer of the file cabinet or other designated receptacle, should there be one.

On Monday, a member of the staff, i.e. the Rector or Administrative Assistant, plus a Vestry member or Financial Committee chairperson, shall count and record the funds received and make out the appropriate Counting Sheet and Bank Deposit(s). One of those individuals will then take the deposit to the appropriate bank and return the receipt to the parish office.



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE

6525 Inwood Road
Dallas, Texas 75209

VESTRY

Alyssa Abadinsky
Rene Aguirre
John Billingsley
Hampton Burwick
Janet Elsea
Dan Hall
Jerry Knight
Jami Mifflin
John Van Buskirk

EX-OFFICIO OFFICERS

Joe DeuFree
Rusty Rippamonti
Wynne Voorhees

CLERGY & STAFF

Laura Giffin
Joe Henry
Virginia Holleman
Andy McCarthy
Jennifer Smith
Steve Sprinkle
Lee Swift
Christopher Thomas
Stephen Waller

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Keith Carney
Paul McCright
Wynne Voorhees

The Baptismal Covenant

A Prayer for Daily Use

Holy and gracious, life-giving God,
Creator, sustainer, and redeemer of all:

- Help me today to continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers;
- Help me today to persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever I fall into sin, repent and return to you;
- Help me today to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ;
- Help me today to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself;
- Help me today to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every single human being;

For it is in doing these things that I become more and more like your Son Jesus Christ, transforming myself, and the very world around me.

Amen.