



The Episcopal Church of St Thomas the Apostle

Monthly Vestry Meeting - Minutes January 20, 2026

IN ATTENDANCE

Rector

Father Christopher Thomas

Clergy, Staff/Guest**Ex-Officio Officers**

Jerry Knight, Treasurer
Rusty Rippamonti, Chancellor
Bob Stutz, Clerk

Vestry Members

Hampton Burwick
Tom Files
Jami Mifflin
Joe DeuPree - Senior Warden
Steve Sale – Junior Warden
Jack Sartin
Shelly Turner

Parishioners

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN AND SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- **Spiritual Reflection**
- **Approval of Appointed Positions**
- **Standing Committee Assignments**
- **Approval of December 16, 2026 Minutes**
- **Finance Committee Report**
- **Mission – Outreach Committee Report**
- **Building & Grounds Report**
- **Rector's Report**

NARRATIVE

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Fr. Christopher Thomas, and the meeting began with an opening prayer led by Fr. Christopher.

II. Resource Person for Meeting**Hampton Burwick****III. Spiritual Reflection****Fr. Christopher Thomas**

There was a discussion and review of 'What we Mean When We Say'... as well as a slide presentation and conversation of what St Thomas had stood for in the past and what we are going to stand for going forward. Thoughts on a new mission statement for the church

and it was agreed "The Doubters of Great Faith ... Bringing You Close Enough to Care" and the various implication within St Thomas and the greater Dallas community.

IV. Election of Officers

Fr. Christopher Thomas

Pursuant to our Parish Bylaws:

- a) Joe DeuPree was appointed Sr. Warden by the Rector
- b) Stephen Sale upon Motion was unanimously elected as Jr. Warden by the Vestry
- c) Upon further Motion by Steve Sale and Seconded by Hampton Burwick, the following were unanimously elected as additional ex-officio officers
 - Treasurer: Jerry Knight
 - Chancellor: Rusty Rippamonti
 - Clerk: Bob Stutz

V. Standing Committee Assignments

Fr. Christopher Thomas

- a) Finance: Aguirre, DeuPree, Files (Chair: Jerry Knight)
- b) Building & Grounds: Billingsley, Mifflin, Sale (Chair: Steve Sale)
- c) Mission / Outreach: Burwick, Sartin, Turner (Chair: Shelly Turner)

VI. Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

The meeting continued with a review of the previous month's minutes. Hampton Burwick moved, and Steve Sale seconded, a motion for approval of the December 16, 2025 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

VII. Finance Committee

Jerry Knight

- a) 2025 Finance Report (attached) The year ended in the red by (19,994.75) but was actually better than Budgeted.
- b) Stewardship Campaign Update (2025 & 2026) 2025 Pledge totals were (11,184.85) less than pledged but that can be explained by members moving from the area as well as members passing away. The 2026 Stewardship report is attached.
- c) Attendance Reports was presented and is attached.
- d) Chancellor Items:
 - a. 2026 Banking Resolutions (attached) The Banking Resolution for Inwood National Bank accounts was presented and discussed. Jami Mifflin motioned to approve the resolution and Jack Sartin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. The Banking Resolution for Fidelity Brokerage Services LLC account was presented and discussed. Hampton Burwick motioned to approve the resolution and Jack Sartin seconded the motion which was unanimously approved..
 - b. Updated Cash Management Policy. The updated Cash Management Policy was presented and discussed. Jack Sartin motioned to approve the resolution and Hampton Burwick seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.
 - c. Review of Social Media, Alcohol and Room Use for Single Use Policies. The Rector has final approval of any events.

VIII. Mission – Outreach Committee

Shelly Turner

The committee is working to identify groups to be recipients for Lenten Giving Practice, The theme will be “This Lent – Just Give”. Shelly asked for approval to have a group of Girl Scouts sell Girl Scout cookies in the Parish Hall, which was approved. Any other groups want may want to sell items should go through the Mission Outreach Committee.

IX. Building & Grounds

Steve Sale

The water use report is found in the agenda on pages 35-36. Money is being donated to stripe the parking lots... it was suggested using rainbow colors... which would be more expensive so the committee will approach the donor to ask if they would fine with covering the higher cost.

X. Guild Liaisons Reports

- **Acolytes/Eucharistic Ministers** (Steve Sale)
- **Eucharistic Visitors** (John Billingsley)
- **Altar Guild** (Rene Aguirre)
- **Greeters/Ushers** (Hampton Burwick)
- **Kitchen/Social:** (Jami Mifflin)
- **Lectors (Readers)** (Jack Sartin)
- **Music** (Joe DeuPree)

XI. Rector’s Report

Fr. Christopher Thomas

- a) Bishop Price’s Pastoral Letter of January 1 (attached) and First Visit to St. Thomas the Apostle: March 15, 2026. Bishop Wolfe will be our Bishop with regards to Gay Marriages and other related issues. Fr. Christopher requested \$1000 for Bishop Price's reception. The request was approved.
- b) Rector's Holiday: January 22, 2026 – February 5, 2026. Someone from the Vestry will need to lock the church while the Rector is out. Due to impending severe weather, it may be necessary to cancel the services for Sunday January 25, 2026. A decision will be made by Thursday to allow time for the Church Administrator to send notice to the Parish.
- c) Annual Meeting: February 15, 2026 at noon in the Parish Hall.
- d) Ash Wednesday: February 18, 2026 (Noon & 8pm)
- e) Lenten Formation: Will be Wednesdays during Lent (Feb 25, Mar 4, 11, 18, 25 from 6 – 7:15 in the South Room)
- f) EPN Conferende: March 3 – 7 in Charlotte NC
- g) Palm Sunday/Holy Week Triduum/Easter: Roll out the “new” organ!

XII. Resource Person for February 17, 2026 Meeting

XII. Compline & Dismissal

Fr. Christopher Thomas

The meeting was closed with Compline by Fr. Christopher at 9:40 pm.

APPENDIX

- Vestry Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2026
- What We Mean When We Say ...
- Balance Sheet – December 31, 2025
- Income Statement – December 1 to December 31, 2026
- Banking Resolutions
- 2025 Pledge Results
- 2026 Pledge Detail
- 2025 Attendance Report
- Cash Management Policy
- Media, Alcohol and Room Policies
- Bishop Price's Pastoral Letter
- The Baptismal Covenant

Meeting Minutes prepared by Bob Stutz, Clerk