

St. Philip Parish Council - Minutes  
Monday 2 March, 2026, Meeting 7:00 PM at St Philip's Church

Attendees: Evelyn Savage, Larry Anthony, Judith Armstrong, Mike Pipes, Dave Conway, Paul Scambler, Bruce Richmond, Adam Tarnowsky, Allen Doerksen, John Laidlaw, Gerianne Knowles-Robson, Mark Laidlaw (minutes)

Regrets: none

Guests: Ged McLean, Ken Davidson, Joe Weicker, Clayton Savage (building committee)

Meeting came to order at 7:04pm; AD welcomed new council members and guests. AD opened with prayer.

Agenda – St.Matthias discussion added to Annual Meeting; Preschool added to Building Rentals; approved as amended.

#### January Minutes Review

- Agape meal; Maundy Thursday, discussion on merits of having one sitting.
- Business arising: Rector and Wardens to discuss and decide re one sitting.
- Approved as circulated.

**Building Committee Report** – GM, KD, JW, CS presented an overview of the Depreciation Reports of the St.Philip's and St.Matthias buildings. Reports to be circulated to Council and summarized for Congregation. GM to circulate a Committee Report to Wardens and Rector.

GM reports on a methodology concern on the Depreciation reports; underestimation of St.Philip's replacement cost. Committee's conclusion is that buildings are in comparable condition; committee does not see a compelling building-related reason to move.

GM presented a draft outline of a building accessibility upgrade for St.Philip's. Committee's initial assessment is that most of the critical accessibility and useability issues could be addressed – assuming volunteer labour – with a budget of around \$300,000. Committee suggested to council that the first step would be a feasibility study costing approximately \$10,000.

Council took a vote of thanks to the committee for the work in preparing this report.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

#### Actions:

- Wardens to bring feedback about building replacement costs to Depreciation Report.
- Warden and Rector to plan feedback for congregation including timeline about St.Matthias proposal.
- Items associated with St.Matthias to be discussed with building committee
- JA provided Council with timeline of interaction in the St.Matthias proposal (appended)

#### Rector's report –

- This retreat held at St. Stephen's was held with a focus on inspiration and direction for our personal life and the life of the St. Philip Community. *ca. 30 attended*
- Book Study ("Saved From Sacrifice") – AD expressed thanks to all who made this a very successful study! Our new study for the Easter season and beyond will be decided on shortly.
- AD attended World Religions Conference on Sunday (Feb 1)
- Lent 2026: St. Philip has joined with Holy Trinity, North Saanich; [St. Philip, Wrangell, Alaska](#); and St. George's, Cadboro Bay for a series of reflections on the Lord's Prayer – over 90 people have signed up!
- Holy Week service schedule to be finalized in next days.

Next meeting date: March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

**Timeline of Milestones in St. Philip/St. Matthias Discernment Process – *Judith Armstrong***

Mar 25, 2025	Bishop Anna’s conversation with Fr. Allen about possibility of St. Matthias as a location for St. Philip ministry
Mar 25, 2025	Parish Council Bishop’s e-visit (by phone) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bishop Anna spoke about renovations as a way to address accessibility or space challenges.</li><li>• Highlighted Diocesan context of properties with more space or amenities which are without a long-term viable congregation.</li><li>• AD and Wardens to follow up for more information.</li></ul>
May 26, 2025	Allen and LA meet with St Matthais clergy, Colleen and Wardens Joan Wilson and Bob Hall (JA away)
May 30, 2025	E-mail from Joan Wilson, St. Matthias Warden to Allen, LA and JA with a joint message (written by LA & Joan) to provide to both St. Philip & St. Matthias parishes to start the process and sent below under the heading of a New Conversation
June 8, 2025	A New Conversation: e-mail sent from Allen, JA, LA to St. Philip parishioners
June 22, 2025	Several St. Matthias parishioners attend St. Philip parish picnic
June 23, 2025	Parish council: St. Matthias discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AD and Wardens to organize congregational meeting around the question “Are we being called to be St. Philip in another location?”</li><li>• bring together groups who can explore/answer questions<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ shared ministry</li><li>○ cost implications</li><li>○ process</li></ul></li></ul>
July 14, 2025	E-mail from parishioner to Allen outlining multiple questions that parishioners were asking (led to decision to hold congregational meeting July 27)
July 21 to July 27, 2025	June 8 announcement follow-up re St. Philip/St. Matthias read out in church and invitation meeting. Backgrounder information sent out.
July 27, 2025	Congregational meeting to gather parish questions
July 28, 2025	LA and JA collated the questions in preparation for Parish Council meeting

July 29, 2025	<p>Parish Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parish Council received a summary of the questions from the July 27 conversation re St. Matthias</li> <li>• Buildings/Maintenance group to take lead on the questions about facilities/cost for upkeep and repair</li> <li>• Mark Laidlaw to form a group to liaise with St. Matthias Treasurer/finance people</li> <li>• Judith Slimmon and Dave Conway to take lead on “culture” investigation</li> </ul>
July 30, 2025	E-mail from St. Philip Wardens to St. Matthias Wardens seeking answers to some of the July 27 questions
Aug 5, 2025	Wardens distributed Parishioner Update #1 to St. Philip parishioners with link to collated questions from July 27
Aug 22, 2025	Response from Warden Joan Wilson (St. Matthias) to July 30 e-mail, apologizing for the delay in responding; late response due to IT crash, not restored until Aug 21. Additionally, Rev Colleen and Warden Bob Hall out of town until end of August Tentative meeting between two parish’s Wardens scheduled for Sept 9
Sept 9, 2025	JA and LA met with St. Matthias Wardens Bob and Joan and Treasurer Hazel at St. Matthias
Sept 22, 2025	<p>Parish Council – Bishop Anna attending Bishop discussed the possibility of St Philip’s using St. Matthias building.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Background: St Philip’s has been considering accessibility improvements to the building; significant renovations likely to cost several hundreds of thousands. Need to ask questions around whether this is a prudent use of Parish resources.</li> <li>b) St. Matthias has a large property and a small and aging congregation that finds it increasingly difficult to maintain church and hall.</li> <li>c) Potential benefit to St Philip of relocating: St. Matthias property is at a higher accessibility standard</li> <li>d) Potential benefit to St. Matthias: more (and younger) people available to do ongoing work of running parish</li> <li>e) A suggested model would be that the two congregations share use of space but maintain separate identity, services, finances initially</li> <li>f) If St. Philip assumed management responsibility at St. Matthias, it would only be for church and hall, not rectory or associated housing (responsibility for these assumed by Synod office)</li> <li>g) Action item for Wardens: get depreciation reports on both properties</li> <li>h) Key takeaway: up to St. Philip if we wish to pursue this</li> </ol>
Sept 29, 2025	E-mails between LA and Brendon Neilson (Diocese Executive Director (Ged copied) re: building depreciation reports Brendon indicates reports have been commissioned and we will hear about a date.
Oct 2, 2025	Wardens distributed Parishioner Update #2 to St. Philip parishioners

Oct 27, 2025	<p>Parish Council St. Matthias update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JA reports meeting with St. Matthias Wardens scheduled for early November (maybe late October by Zoom)</li> <li>• JA and LA working on answers to parish questions from July 27 congressional meeting</li> <li>• St. Matthias has requested that we share their special events with St. Philip</li> <li>• September Minutes Review</li> <li>• Clarification about Bishop's comments re St. Matthias, that the vision would be only transfer responsibility for church and hall</li> <li>• Approved as amended</li> </ul>
Oct 28, 2025	E-mail from Mark Oldnall (Synod office) advising depreciation reports underway
Nov 4, 2025	E-mail from Mark Oldnall that approval has been given to proceed with depreciation reports and advising he is reaching out to RJC (Reed, Jones and Christopherson)
Nov 18, 2025	Meeting with St. Philip and St. Matthias Wardens (Joan's house)
Nov 20, 2025	JA and LA provided a summary of meeting to Joan and Bob for discussion at their PC. Unfortunately, Colleen was not able to review it so was not discussed at their PC
Nov 21, 2025	LA sent e-mail to St. Matthias Wardens, following up on request to have St. Philip maintenance group be on site when RJC is conducting their site visit. St. Matthias Wardens decline permission, but will consider a separate time when St. Philip maintenance group can visit
Dec 1, 2025	<p>Parish Council meeting (combination Nov/Dec PC meetings) St. Matthias Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JA and LA met with St. Matthias Wardens to clarify the parishes' relationship in the event of a relocation. E-mail summary circulated to St. Philip</li> <li>• Another meeting between Wardens planned for early December</li> <li>• Allen suggested a draft proposal for discussion, to clarify expectations.</li> <li>• Council members to send thoughts on processes to Wardens.</li> <li>• Depreciation reports for both churches/properties are in the works.</li> </ul>
Dec 7, 2025	St. Philip proposal to St. Matthias, outlining potential relocation and space sharing arrangement, sent to St. Matthias Wardens
Dec 9, 2025	St. Philip/St. Matthias Warden's meeting (LA's house)
Dec 11, 2025	St. Philip praise group participated in St. Matthias Advent wassailing concert, several St. Philip parishioners attended
Dec 15, 2025	JA and LA distributed to Parish Council (via e-mail) an update on the St. Philip/St. Matthias Wardens Meeting (held 2025.12.09)
Dec 18, 2025	St. Philip site visit by RJC takes place to conduct review of St. Philip Building [Ged accompanied assessors.]

Jan 3, 2026	<p>E-mail sent to St. Philip parish Council advising them that JA and LA will increase our communication with St. Philip parishioners to ensure clarity with respect to the discernment process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunday morning (Jan 4, 2026) announcement at both worship services</li> <li>• Sunday announcement during January, followed by written announcements</li> <li>• Creating drop-in sessions to allow parishioners to share thoughts/ask questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Drop-ins occurred 7:00 PM Jan 7, 14, 21, 28; 11:30 AM Jan 14; 12:00 PM Jan 29</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Jan 7, 2026	Wardens distributed Parishioner Update #3 to St. Philip parishioners
Jan 7, 2026	Wednesday evening drop-in for parishioners to bring questions, thoughts, ideas, concerns about St. Matthias discernment process
Jan 11, 2026	Bishop's visit – coffee time discussion re: St. Philip/St. Matthias discernment
Jan 14, 2026	Wednesday day and evening drop in for parishioners to bring questions, thoughts, ideas, concerns about St. Matthias discernment process
Jan 15, 2026	Wardens distributed Parishioner Update #4 to St. Philip parishioners [includes July 27, 2025 question set and St. Philip Updates 1 – 3]
Jan 21, 2026	Wardens distributed Parishioner Update #5 to St. Philip parishioners
Jan 22, 2026	St. Matthias response to St. Philip space sharing proposal (i.e. St. Matthias counterproposal) received
Jan 23, 2026	LA e-mails St. Matthias Wardens, acknowledging receipt of counterproposal LA distributes counterproposal to St. Philip Parish Council in advance of Jan 26, 2026 Parish Council meeting
Jan 24, 2026	<p>LA and JA asked Ken Davidson and Joe Weicker, two members of the St. Philip building committee, if it is feasible for the building committee to prepare cost estimates for renovations required at St. Philip.</p> <p>JA and LA agreed to send building depreciation reports, when available, to Ged McLean, Ken and Joe for their analysis.</p>
Jan 26, 2026	<p>Parish Council St. Matthias conversation update: (draft minutes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wardens' Discussions (JA, LA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ JA and LA have met with St. Matthias; discuss St. Matthias counterproposal; the sense is that they are less interested in space sharing, apparently envisioning instead a merger.</li> <li>○ LA and JA discussed some of the feedback they received during the Wednesday engagement sessions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Follow up from the Bishop Anna's visit.</li> <li>• Dave's comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reports on conversations with parishioners about process.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Discussion about response to St. Matthias proposal; council to send suggestions to Wardens.</li> </ul>

Feb 7, 2026	JA and LA send draft of St. Philip response to St. Matthias counterproposal to St. Philip Parish Council for input
Feb 11, 2026	Ken Davidson (building committee) suggests waiting to receive building depreciation reports before preparing renovation cost estimates
Feb 13, 2026	JA and LA send St. Philip response to St. Matthias counterproposal to St. Matthias Wardens (as of Feb 25, 2026 no reply)
Feb 15, 2026	St. Philip depreciation report received from Brendon
Feb 16, 2026	St. Philip depreciation report sent to building committee (Ged, Ken and Joe) asking to review and provide comments for Parish Council
Feb 17, 2026	Further information regarding the depreciation report received from Mark Oldnal (Synod office) indicating that the next step will be for him to arrange visits to each of the parishes to discuss.
Feb 20, 2026	Both St. Philip and St. Matthias depreciation reports distributed to building committee.