

## **Truro Anglican Church—Regular Vestry Meeting Summary**

### **November 2025**

#### **Initial Matters**

On November 18, 2025, at 7:04 pm, Jamie Brown opened the meeting with prayer, thanking God for the day and His faithfulness. Jamie asked for the presence of the Holy Spirit, the mind of Christ, and wisdom.

For the evening's devotion, Jamie read from Acts 17, where Paul addressed audiences in Athens, a city full of idol worshipers and the intellectually curious. Jamie remarked that Northern Virginia has as many worshipers of idols as ancient Athens, albeit not ones fashioned from silver or gold. Paul was provoked to address the Athenians respectfully, commenting on an idol he saw dedicated "to an unknown god." This observation gave him an opening to proclaim to his hearers Jesus and the resurrection. The responses from the crowd varied from scoffing and rejection to serious interest leading to belief. Jamie concluded that we too must be informed about the ways of our culture to share the gospel and be ready for reactions as mixed as those of Athens.

**Rector's Report.** Jamie spoke on the challenges in ACNA and in DOMA. He exhorted Vestry members to pray about these difficult matters that have been reported in the press. Jamie noted that the diocesan synod last week was beautifully hosted by the Church of the Resurrection, north of Baltimore. He reminded us that Truro committed to host synod in 2026.

Looking back, Jamie is encouraged by many happenings this fall at Truro including baptisms, 30 guests at the Membership Lunch, staff additions, an overnight staff retreat, and generous giving by parishioners. Looking ahead, Jamie listed several November gatherings involving Bible study, community building, seasonal events, and outreach. Among many Advent activities scheduled for December is a visit by Dr. Curt Thompson, a nationally known psychiatrist, speaker, and author. Planning for Christmas Eve services is underway.

Jamie offered an extensive list of priorities on his mind for 2026. Included were continued growth and the strengthening of Truro's four pillars: the Word, worship, community, and outreach. Successful searches for an Associate Rector of Discipleship, Community, and Outreach and a Communications Director would be a major assist. Also welcome would be incremental steps toward a long-term resolution of property matters. Finally, an overdue renovation of certain campus spaces and equipment deserve consideration.

**AOM Report.** Myra Hinate, Director of TIPS, began by reviewing the TIPS mission statement. The 253 students currently enrolled in this 41-year-old outreach to internationals are served by three staff members and 50-70 volunteers. The largest group of students is from China, with other sizable contingents from South Korea, Ukraine, and Azerbaijan. Weekly offerings include (i) English classes, (ii) a lunch, (iii) a conversational class on culture (both U.S. and the native cultures of our students, who organize their own presentations), and (iv) Exploring Faith (a literary approach to studying stories from the Old Testament and New Testament, led by long-time volunteer Mike Sikorski). There are also separate Bible studies in Spanish and Chinese. Bond Over Bites is an activity permitting interested TIPS students to help prepare some lunches and even assist in serving Truro's congregation (notably, Wednesday Senior Lunch and Sunday after-service refreshments). For TIPS volunteers, English classes are

preceded by a devotional time and briefing by a staff member. Some students ask for confidential prayer, which is available on request by experienced intercessors. The emphasis of TIPS is on hospitality and community. Because of the friendships they make, many students come to regard TIPS as their family. Internationals hear about TIPS almost exclusively by word of mouth. TIPS is encouraged whenever students gain enough English proficiency to find jobs, though it usually means losing them as students. Most rewarding over the years has been when gospel seeds planted by TIPS activities begin to take visible root, especially when it leads to baptisms of those with no Christian background. TIPS could use more evening volunteers to assist with online English classes.

## **Business**

- a) The Vestry moved, seconded, and approved acceptance of the following items:
  - Vestry Meeting Minutes - October 21, 2025.
  - Financial Summary Reports - Oct Finance Committee, TPK, and Trinity Burke. Treasurer Don Foy reported a much stronger financial position for Truro compared to a year ago, thanks to regular generous giving by the congregation. TPK and Trinity Burke also report a solid financial footing.
  - Jamie paused to pray (along with other Vestry members) in thanks for God's generosity and faithfulness, the health of the church, and a relaxed, unpressured way to approach financial stewardship.
- b) A Decision Brief was presented by Don Foy on the Proposed 2026 Truro Budget. The proposal includes a 10% increase for 2026. Don noted that a budget revision might be needed in mid-year 2026 given the interest in refreshing elements of the Truro campus. After some questions and discussion (e.g., on the financial impact of hosting the 2026 DOMA synod), the Vestry approved the Brief.
- c) A Decision Brief was presented by Daria Brown, Director of Operations, for Authorization to Certify Housing Allowances for Truro Clergy for 2026. After Daria explained that this annual procedure affects tax treatment of Truro and Trinity Burke clergy, the Vestry approved the Brief.
- d) Daria Brown noted the need for extra childcare volunteers at The Nest on Sunday.
- e) The Vestry entered executive session at 8:23 pm and ended at 9:05 pm.

Jamie concluded with prayer and adjourned the meeting at 9:07 pm.

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