

*“To love others as Christ loves us”*

**Christ Church Episcopal Vestry Minutes  
Earle Conference Room  
Tuesday, April 15, 2025**

**Attending:** Harrison McLeod (Rector), Nancy Kennedy (Senior Warden), Chan Boyd (Junior Warden), Wade Kolb III (Asst. Chancellor), Nelson Arrington III (Asst. Treasurer), Chris Klasing (Treasurer), Wes Clarke, Betty Parker Ellis, Jane Harrison Fisher, Norma Givens, Martha Louise Lewis, Smyth McKissick IV, Mary Holt Murphy, Dorothy Nicholson, Phil Peterson, John Wood.

**Minutes Taken by:** Wes Clarke.

**Attending by Phone:** None.

**Not in Attendance:** Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), Betsy Baumgardner, Angelle Reichert.

**Guests:** None.

**Welcome & Prayer:**

The Reverend Dr. Harrison McLeod (Rector) opened the meeting in prayer at 5:05pm.

**Ministry Area Updates:**

In Angelle’s absence, Betty Parker reported on the GOAL Nehemiah Action Meeting last week. Approximately 44 Christ Church parishioners attended, and Tom Johnson spoke to the high eviction rate in Greenville County. Public transportation and affordable housing are this year's issues, and commitments were secured from SCDOT representatives to improve lighting near the Berea Walmart by 2026, from Greenville County representatives to develop a plan for zero pedestrian deaths and to establish a County Housing Court by 2025-2026, and from state legislators to support legislation to expunge evictions.

Betty Parker also reported on Communications. Angela Shultz continues to make revisions to the [www.ccgsc.org](http://www.ccgsc.org) website using budgeted monies. She is also in touch with our live stream equipment service provider to determine whether to replace or repair the 8 year old equipment. We hope to have the system running again ASAP, hopefully in time for CCES Commencement on May 24. Rather than hiring its own contractor just for that event, CCES may be willing to contribute to a more permanent solution for the Church.

Finally, Betty Parker shared an update to last month’s report from the Welcoming Ministry: 22 youth and 19 adults are scheduled to be confirmed on April 27th.

**Rector’s Report – Harrison McLeod:**

Harrison reported various impressive statistics regarding participation during Palm Sunday, including that 827 people attended church, 28 musicians played, 25 children led the Children’s Sabbath, 90 children attended in Markley Chapel and 30 attended in the Church, 180 children participated in the Easter egg hunt, and 500 cupcakes were beautifully prepared. The mood on campus was highly celebratory. A

photographer took pictures for 3 hours, and it was suggested to compile them for targeted promotion of the positive energy at Christ Church.

Next, Harrison reported on stewardship: \$2.817 million has been pledged to the Annual Giving Campaign across 695 pledges. While lower than the original \$3 million goal, this amount exceeds the \$2.8 million now budgeted, is the highest in a few years, and is possibly the highest ever.

Regarding Christ Church Episcopal Pre-school, Harrison reported that a new curriculum will be implemented by the fall, along with teacher training to address lingering Covid impacts upon pre-school-aged children. The Director's job description is being finalized, with hopes to start that search in the next few weeks. A list of support tasks to help the eventual appointee respond to the growing complexity of running a pre-school has been compiled. Harrison reached out to the CCES Admissions Office to inquire as to how CCEP graduates compare to students from other pre-schools, and the response is that CCEP graduates do very well at CCES. Jane Harrison commended Harrison for his leadership during the ongoing transition. In turn, Harrison commended Claudia Coleman. The Pre-school projects to be fully enrolled.

Harrison reported on respective gifts of \$16k for audio-visual components and \$52k for the website update. The website work is more costly than one might think due to the need to integrate with the church ledger and database, and may take many months. Harrison commended Angela and the full staff for their ongoing efforts. He also mentioned that several exciting candidates are interviewing for the Senior Adult Ministries position.

Finally, Harrison shared a holy experience of his from this past Sunday, likening it to the All Saints service from 2013 that followed an unusually high number of deaths the previous summer. During the 10:30 Palm Sunday service in the church, he opened the altar book to Eucharistic Prayer A for the first time since Advent (2024), and saw on the facing page his notes from the December blessing of a same sex marriage. Recalling all the debates, anxieties, study, individual and corporate discernment regarding the definition of marriage, and in the context of the upcoming Holy Week, he was wonderfully reminded of that couple standing at the altar rail simply desiring to invite God into their marriage, and was again reminded that the true purpose of liturgy is to offer an opportunity for all of us to experience the fullness of God's blessing in our lives and relationships.

Harrison closed his report by reminding that the Bishop will visit the Sunday after Easter for Confirmation, followed by lunch with the Vestry at about 12:30.

**Senior Warden's Report – Nancy Kennedy:**

Nancy shared that she had explored the new website, and found it to be cleaner and more inviting than previously. She requested that Vestry members contact Kristin Bennett to continue to write thank you notes to parishioners for their pledges. And she remarked how impressed she was in reading through the ministry area reports at the variety and volume of ministry undertakings.

**Junior Warden's Report – Chan Boyd:**

Harrison thanked Chan for her ongoing work helping to clean out Church spaces. Chan shared that the basement is now available for use, and that she is working to reconfigure McCall Parlor back to parlor status.

**Treasurer's Report – Nelson Arrington & Chris Klasing:**

Chris reported that we now have an approved budget to measure against. The bottom line is that year-to-date net results as of March were a surplus of \$380k, \$14k (3.6%) below budget. Year-to-date pledge giving results track similarly, but month-by-month pledging can bounce up and down throughout the year. In response to Chris's concern about bridge gifts, Harrison responded that he still has some conversations to hold, but is confident that commitments will materialize and be paid.

To the Treasurer's report disseminated before the Vestry meeting, Chris added that credits up to about \$15k in rental income are worth noting. He will look into those and report back, which he did via email two days after the meeting - it is mostly a timing issue.

Finally, Chris noted that an oven in the kitchen has failed and needs replacement. The cost of ~\$11k should come from the kitchen reserve, an expenditure which the Vestry does not need to approve.

**Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2025:**

Mary Holt corrected square footage for buildings, and a couple of other typos were corrected. Smyth moved to approve the revised March minutes with those revisions, and Betty Parker seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

**New Business:**

Chan remarked about the talent, dedication, and widespread appreciation of the church staff, and suggested a gesture of appreciation specifically from the Vestry. Several ideas were briefly mentioned, and Harrison reminded the group about a quarterly gathering that had recently taken place, and the notes the Vestry typically writes to church staff annually at Thanksgiving.

**Committee/Team Reports:**

Norma commended Donald Duncan for his leadership of liturgy, and noted 6 services upcoming on Easter Sunday.

**Other Business:**

Appointments for the Nominations & Elections Committee had been on the agenda as a placeholder, but it was determined that delegates and alternates for the Diocesan convention were sufficient as long as not more than three of those cannot attend.

Chris requested a motion for the routine 2nd quarter endowment distribution in the amount of \$136k. Chan moved to approve, and Smyth seconded. After a short discussion regarding small discrepancies in quarterly amounts, all voted in favor, with none opposed. Chris followed up on the question via email two days later.

Harrison offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:55pm.