

“To love others as Christ loves us”

**Christ Church Episcopal Vestry Minutes
Earle Conference Room
Tuesday, August 19, 2025**

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

Minutes Taken by: Wes Clarke.

Attending by Phone: None.

Not in Attendance: Cecil Nelson (Chancellor).

Guests: Frances Simon and Joyce Smart, EverKind Respite Care; Bryant Nixon, Master Planning.

Welcome & Prayer:

The Reverend Dr. Harrison McLeod (Rector) opened the meeting in prayer at 5:01pm.

EverKind Respite Care Presentation:

Harrison introduced Frances and Joyce to share about an exciting ministry vision that has been developing quietly and prayerfully. The Vestry had previously been provided Slides describing EverKind Respite Care, whose motto is “Reflecting God’s love for those touched by memory loss.” Frances and Joyce pointed specifically to slides 5 and 13, which emphasized that the vision is not for a medical program, but a social one. They proceeded to show a 5 minute video from Respite for All, the national organization that has 40 chapters across multiple states.

EverKind is the name for the Christ Church chapter in development. Frances and Joyce have worked with church staff to answer legal and insurance questions, inform the Diocese of their intention, plan for volunteer training, and arrange for preliminary budgeting. They are proud that the program aligns closely with the Church’s core values. The program day would run from 10am until 2pm for two days per week, by reservation, opening in September 2026. Between now and then, they will work to build awareness within and beyond the parish and to finalize organizational elements, including storage, equipment, staffing and training, and pricing for start-up supplies and food. They aim for a ratio of volunteers to participants of between 1 and 1.5 to 1. A similar program has been running at John Knox Presbyterian for a year and a half, and has a waiting list. Participants pay \$40 for each session, and most chapters become financially self-sustaining within two years.

Master Planning:

Next, Harrison introduced Bryant Nixon, who was invited by Chan to share his work for a year or more in the area of master planning across the campus, which comprises about 10 total land parcels, including 6 on Broadus Avenue. All of the Broadus properties fall under the Pettigru Historic District, requiring

protection of the residential character of the surrounding neighborhood. The Parish House was built in 1957.

Bryant distributed a draft RFQ (Request for Qualifications) from about a half dozen invited firms. The idea is to select a design consultant to help us determine the scope of work to meet the Church's program needs, and then secure a feasibility consultant. Along the way, focus groups and surveys would involve the full congregation, so it will be a lengthy process. Harrison reminded the Vestry that a previous group had voted in February of 2020 to undertake a capital campaign, which was never launched due to the pandemic.

Various and broad scenarios and questions were discussed, from the size of the committee that might select the design partner; to the degree to which the Church might consider increasing, maintaining, or reducing its real estate holdings; to the logistics of Pre-school carpool and the importance of urban green space; to the option to partner with neighboring property holders to pursue development together. Harrison and the Wardens will develop a list of names to involve in the next step, which is receiving responses to the RFQ.

Rector's Report – Harrison McLeod:

This past Sunday, entitled Return and Rejoice and including the Biscuit Bash, was terrific. There were 37 participants in Children's Chapel, 80 in youth Sunday school, full adult classes, 200 attendees in Markley Chapel for the first service of the program year there, and a large number of visitors and newcomers. This concluded a busy week with two large funerals, and Baptisms the prior Sunday. Harrison remarked especially upon the feeling of wraparound pastoral support from the parish for the families involved in the funerals.

Dennis Hughes from Finding Great People presented the new Employee Handbook at a recent church staff meeting. The new policies consisted mostly of pulling together language to reflect unofficial practices.

Scott Fleischer is due back to work from his sabbatical on September 1.

The budgeting process for 2026 is on track. Harrison expects an Annual Giving goal of \$3 million, and is excited by the eagerness of Ben and Liza Lovelace, who have agreed to serve as Campaign Chairs. Last year's campaign total of \$2.83 million was an all-time high.

The Diocese is soliciting nominations for Convention Deputies or the Executive Committee, so Harrison requested that any recommendations for candidates be forwarded to him. Norma shared that she has thoroughly enjoyed serving on the Executive Committee, gaining another view of the church beyond that of a parishioner and Vestry member, and that serving has also required a lot of work and involvement on her part.

Senior Warden's Report – Nancy Kennedy:

Nancy thanked those Vestry members who had completed their required Safe Church training, and encouraged all Vestry members to connect with their ministry areas to be involved in each area's budgeting process.

Junior Warden's Report – Chan Boyd:

Chan commented that the painting in the All Saints Center is complete and looks really nice.

Treasurer's Report – Nelson Arrington & Chris Klasing:

Chris stated that there is nothing particularly exciting about this month's budget update, with net results being a bit ahead of schedule. It appears that finances may follow a typical pattern of catching up ground as the program year starts after the summer.

Approval of Minutes from July 15, 2025:

Betty Parker moved to approve the July minutes, and Mary Holt seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

New Business:

Pursuant to Title IV, Canon IV.14.12.D, the Vestry received notice from the Bishop of amendment of an accord from 2016 and a limited return to ministry involving a priest in the Diocese.

Committee/Team Reports:

Norma distributed a three-page listing of major liturgical events for the 25-26 program year, and stated that Donald has redesigned the layout of the worship bulletin. Harrison commended Director of Marketing and Communications Angela Shultz on the occasion of her one year anniversary as a staff member. Chan added that some new branding that will contain more green and that new pew cards are being deployed. Betty Parker thanked the Vestry for their participation in the Welcoming Ministry, also commending Angela. Angelle stated that GOAL meetings will start in September, as will a JustFaith series on preventing gun violence, and that Project Host days of service will take place on Sundays, 9/14 and 10/12.

Other Business:

None.

Harrison offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.