Advance Draft of Minutes for Approval

"To love others as Christ loves us"

Christ Church Episcopal Vestry Minutes
Earle Conference Room
Tuesday, August 18, 2026

Attending: Nancy Kennedy (Senior Warden), Chan Boyd (Junior Warden), Nelson Arrington III (Treasurer), Walker Black (Asst. Treasurer), Wade Kolb III (Chancellor), Wes Clarke, Jane Harrison Fisher, Derek Lewis, James McKissick, Smyth McKissick IV, Phil Peterson, Angelle Reichert, Margot Stewart, Bud Thomas, John Wood.

Minutes Taken by: Wes Clarke.

Attending by Phone: Dorothy Nicholson, Mary Holt Murphy.

Not in Attendance: None.

Guests: None.

Welcome & Prayer:
Nancy opened the meeting at 5:03pm, with the prayer for our Rector search.

Senior Warden's Report – Nancy Kennedy:
Having returned from her trip abroad Saturday, Nancy began by requesting Vestry prayers for Shantel Lee, whose mother passed after a period in hospice care. The service will be in Charleston.

The Rector Search Committee has begun its work with enthusiasm and will be commissioned at the 10:30 service this Sunday. The Rev. Canon Janey Wilson from Diocesan House joined the first meeting but is transitioning to a new job soon. Her replacement will continue to support the Committee, whose members are reviewing the parish survey responses in order to craft an opportunity statement and, perhaps, post the position by October.

Next, Nancy shared that a new Facilities Director has been hired and allowed Phil, who participated in interviews, to introduce his background. Christian Bryant previously worked at Spartanburg Methodist College, has managed a team of people, and has background knowledge in IT that will serve the parish well. He will sit on the Leadership Team, and overlap with Jim Cothran for a week and a half prior to Jim's retirement.

Both Jim and Kevin Mertens continue to decline any fanfare on the occasion of their retirements.

At the last meeting, the Vestry had discussed the possibility of replacing Kevin by posting for a Priest position in an outreach role. After additional reflection and discussion, hiring a Priest does not seem wise until after a new Rector is in place. The current thought is to consider posting for a part-time person to oversee outreach.
Nancy closed by encouraging the Vestry members to consider their annual giving pledges for 2027, as they will be asked to submit them at the September meeting.

Junior Warden's Report – Chan Boyd:
Chan shared that the new Parish House Chiller was installed as planned from August 3rd through 5th. Unfortunately, the historic Church was struck by lightning a few days later, which took out the microphones, some cameras, and communication to the new Chiller. Some repairs are complete, and the audio-visual company will also be requested to come.

The long-standing water leak issue continues. A plumber visited, noting that the leaky pipe is made of cast iron, and recommended a welder instead. A quote was requested to place a liner in the pipe, but it was prohibitively expensive. So now a welder is being sought for an estimate to dig and weld the pipe.

Next, Chan shared an update on some efforts to upgrade the All Saints Center kitchen, in consultation with Joleen Nelson and Karen Walker. From an original $10k donation, half of which was spent on the church van, a large countertop toaster oven, a new microwave, and a larger sink have been installed, leaving approximately $4.2k. An under-counter dishwasher has been priced at ~$5.4k, requiring ~$1.2k in additional funding. A new ice machine has also been purchased for ~$5.6k, with the hope of paying for it out of a Vestry-designated kitchen reserve with a balance of ~$9k. This particular reserve has been funded by excess profits from the kitchen, to the tune of a couple of thousand dollars some years. James moved to use ~$6.8k from the reserve to pay for the proposed upgrades. Phil seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed.

Chan then proceeded to a discussion of Markley Chapel. Even with the new Chiller, as expected, the Chapel can be uncomfortably hot. There are no vents in the altar area. A few vents located elsewhere had been partially closed or covered. Chan wondered about the wisdom of asking a mechanical engineer to assess the HVAC setup. After some Vestry discussion, it was decided that Chan will consult some parishioners with related experience and identify someone in commercial heating and cooling to offer recommendations.

Finally, Chan updated the Vestry on the status of the Church-owned house at 107 Broadus Avenue. Tom Croft accompanied her to a lengthy meeting with the city, who had issued citations for disrepair. One option is to make an application to demolish, accompanied by an in-person presentation. After some discussion, the Vestry identified additional people to consult as part of determining next steps.

Treasurer's Report – Nelson Arrington & Walker Black:
Nelson shared a high-level budget summary. Pledge revenues are tracking behind budget (~$1.61 million total year-to-date, which is ~$123k or 7.1% below budget) but expenses are also under budget (~$1.74 million net year-to-date, which is ~$181k or 9.4%) below budget). Overall, July is a fairly pedestrian report, with net results at a loss of ~$134k, or ~$56k better than budget. Year-to-date net is ~$105k, or ~$122k better than budget. Nelson did ask Kristin to take a look at pledge revenue patterns, and they are hopeful that the trend is just a timing lag.

Christ Church Episcopal Preschool tracked a bit positive against its budget over the first quarter, with revenue items in line and expense categories favorable. The Preschool staff is working to fill current student vacancies, but those that remain will strain the Preschool budget.
Approval of Minutes from July 21, 2027:
Bud moved to approve the minutes from the July Vestry meeting, and Angelle seconded the motion. All voted in favor, with none opposed.

Old Business:
None.

Committee/Team Reports:
Angelle reminded the Vestry about the Rise Against Hunger event on 9/13, which is donor-funded. Another donor is also underwriting some meal costs for the upcoming Alpha course offering, which begins 9/9. Nancy's upcoming letter to the parish will refer to all of the exciting fall programming, and the survey response pattern that expressed a strong desire for such programming. The fall worship schedule will resume on 8/23.

New Business:
None.

Other Business:
None.

Chan closed the meeting in prayer at 6:17pm.