

Advance Draft of Minutes for Approval

“To love others as Christ loves us”

Christ Church Episcopal Vestry Minutes Earle Conference Room Tuesday, November 18, 2025

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

Minutes Taken by: Wes Clarke.

Attending by Phone: None.

Not in Attendance: Dorothy Nicholson.

Guests: Rebecca Depp.

Welcome & Prayer:

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

Rector’s Report – Harrison McLeod:

Harrison introduced Rebecca Depp, inviting her to share her journey as she has discerned a call to the priesthood. Growing up in California, Becky moved to Columbia 13 years ago, and to the Upstate in 2016. She previously served as a staff attorney at the SC Supreme Court, and as a law clerk, and has always had a heart for justice, marginalized communities, and people experiencing poverty and food insecurity. Tomorrow, she will represent two men at their parole hearings, and requests prayer on their behalf. She is completing her first semester in a hybrid seminary program at Emory University, alternating weeklong intensives with remote course work. Her husband serves as Medical Director in the Emergency Room in Travelers Rest. At the conclusion of Becky’s remarks, Smyth moved for the Vestry to nominate her for Ordination to the Priesthood, and Betty Parker seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed.

Next, Harrison requested consideration of the same nomination for Sam Nixon. Sam has grown up at Christ Church, having been known to the parish for his whole life. He will be graduating from Furman this spring, and plans to apply to a traditional, residential seminary program for next school year. Sam was invited and offered to appear before the Vestry, but his duty as a football manager at Furman conflicted. Nancy moved to nominate Sam’s Ordination, and Smyth seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed.

Next, Harrison reported on a productive Annual Meeting the previous Sunday, and commended Nancy and Chan for their leadership and presentations, as well as Chris for his long tenure as Treasurer, which will soon end. Vestry members elected were Derek Lewis, James McKissick, Margot Stewart, and Bud

Thomas, and Diocesan delegates are David Traxler, with Baker Wyche as Alternate. Harrison encouraged Vestry members to reach out to Nancy and Chan to let them know which areas of ministry they might like to serve.

Annual Giving is going well, with 435 pledges totaling \$2.055 million, on track toward the \$3 million goal.

Harrison continues to be encouraged and excited about Katelyn Barnett's ministry in the Preschool. They have identified a resource officer who will start on Friday, and work from 8:30am until 1:30pm on Mondays through Fridays, funded in the Preschool budget. In addition, a part-time Nurse will start soon, and work half days on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. The Preschool is requesting bids to move the playground back to the center courtyard, where it was located long ago. Amy Woodson, a new church member who served as a Verger at Christ Church in Nashville, is also supporting Katelyn with her therapy dog, a golden retriever named Willie. The Preschool has filled most open enrollment spots and its budget is fully on track.

The church leadership team is working on ministry area goals, and looking at restructuring staff meetings and leadership team meetings in a way that will be especially helpful during the upcoming transition.

Invitations will be on the way for the Vestry Christmas party at the McLeod home on December 16.

Senior Warden's Report – Nancy Kennedy:

Nancy reported that the church staff appreciated meeting with Canon Rhoades the day after he met with the Vestry regarding the transition. She and Chan will attend staff and leadership team meetings.

Nancy then moved for the Vestry to consent to Harrison's resignation as Rector, as required by Title III, Canon III.9.15.a of the Episcopal Church, as of 12/31/2025. Smyth seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. A copy of the resolution is to be sent to The Rt. Rev. Daniel Richards, Bishop of EDUSC.

Next, a motion was requested to keep Scott and Lindy as clergy on staff during the interim period. Smyth moved, and Norma seconded. With enthusiasm and appreciation for their work, all voted in favor, with none opposed.

Junior Warden's Report – Chan Boyd:

Chan proposed moving forward with a bid to paint the exterior soffits and fascia on Washington and Church Streets totaling \$14,925. In addition, a quote in the amount of \$4,060 was obtained to improve the fence and better enclose the small playground off Washington Street. Chan's proposal was then amended to include an as-yet unspecified amount for reglazing and painting the broken exterior windows on the Parish House. These various repairs to the Parish House exterior were requested to be paid from the Hatch Fund, which is to be used for major repairs and replacement for projects of at least \$10,000, nonrecurring within a five year period. Smyth moved to approve a disbursement of up to \$22,000, and Mary Holt seconded. In brief discussion, a question was posed about a security camera for the playground area where the wall will be constructed, and Phil offered on behalf of the Safety Committee to consider this. All voted in favor, with none opposed.

Our delegation to the Diocesan Convention offered a short report, including discussion of the votes to approve the Diocesan Statement of Mission.

Treasurer's Report – Nelson Arrington & Chris Klasing:

The budget year is proceeding swimmingly, as actual net operating results have not been negative all year, maybe for the first time in Chris's tenure. Harrison reiterated that during the transition period, it is the right and responsibility of the Vestry, under the Wardens' leadership, to staff the church according to budget allowance.

The Preschool budget is also in great shape. Should a surplus result, it would be stashed in reserve.

Unfortunately, another water leak has been discovered through lost water expenses, but not yet located. The hope is to have a vendor survey the Parish House during Thanksgiving, when there is less activity, and perhaps complete the work over Christmas Break, when there is also less activity, particularly in the Preschool. The Vestry should anticipate a funding request early in the new year.

In response to a question about bridge gifts, Harrison stated and the Treasurers confirmed their belief that the budgeted amount for bridge gifts has been covered for 2025, and that the budgeted amount for 2026 has been pledged, with over half already collected.

Approval of Minutes from October 21, 2025:

Smyth moved to approve the October minutes as submitted, and Norma seconded the motion. All voted in favor, with none opposed.

New Business:

None.

Committee/Team Reports:

Norma reported on a discussion regarding a photographer at a recent service who some attendees found to be disruptive. Harrison shared that the church has a policy that prohibits photography during worship, though he has allowed exceptions on occasion for the greater benefit of the church, such as to highlight ministry. Perhaps some additional boundaries could be developed for such instances, as well as for weddings.

Betty Parker celebrated Angela's work in communications in simultaneously promoting three big circumstances: the transition surrounding Harrison's retirement, the holiday season, and Bishop Curry's visit. These communications are managed via a careful planning calendar. Harrison added that Bishop Curry's visit is a golden opportunity to celebrate the future of this church, and encouraged the Vestry to lead with excitement.

Martha Louise reported on the successful CCES Build for the Future groundbreaking celebration on November 17, 2025. She also shared that the By-Laws Committee of the CCES Board of Trustees is reviewing the current By-Laws for updates to provide consistent and clear language especially relating to members of the standing committees. These proposed changes will probably be presented to the Vestry for approval in the upcoming 2026 calendar year. The new Vestry representative to CCES will be taking over this responsibility. Finally, the Religious Life Committee of the CCES Board has met twice this fall, especially to review and provide honest feedback for the updated draft of Episcopal Identity at CCES, which will be released in December.

Angelle reiterated the goals of GOAL (Greenville Organized for Accountable Leadership) interfaith ministry to improve affordable housing and mental health resources, both of which support homeless

populations. She further shared that the Angel Tree store will take place at Legacy Early College on Saturday, 12/6.

Nelson shared a quick additional note on the 2026 budget, which is still in development and often not approved by the Vestry until January or February of the budget year. The current version calls for a \$48k deficit, and includes assumptions about the timing of an Interim Rector's appointment. With any position, the longer one is unfilled, the more favorable to the budget, notwithstanding impacts on programming, staffing, and pastoral presence. Nelson continues efforts to identify an Assistant Treasurer in light of Chris's upcoming retirement from the Treasurer role.

In Parish Life, John celebrated the BBQ & Bluegrass and Men's Oyster Roast events. Norma is delighted to see the Handel's Messiah service's upcoming return.

Other Business:

None.

Harrison offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:42pm.