

“To love others as Christ loves us”

**Christ Church Episcopal Vestry Minutes
Christ Church Episcopal School Presentation Room
Tuesday, September 16, 2025**

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

Minutes Taken by: Wes Clarke.

Attending by Phone: None.

Not in Attendance: Nancy Kennedy (Senior Warden), Nelson Arrington III (Asst. Treasurer), Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), Mary Holt Murphy, Angelle Reichert.

Guests: David Padilla (Head of School at CCES).

Welcome & Prayer:

Beginning at 4pm, approximately 6 members of the Vestry attended an optional tour of the CCES campus. The official meeting was opened at 5pm in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd with an evening prayer service led by CCES Senior Chaplain Wallace Adams-Riley and Lower School Chaplain Catherine Conger.

Update on Christ Church Episcopal School:

After the group proceeded to the Presentation Room, the Reverend Dr. Harrison McLeod (Rector) introduced Head of School David Padilla for an update on Christ Church Episcopal School.

David opened by stating that for CCES and for him as Head of School, it is a pleasure to share in ministry with the Church. CCES is on the cusp of breaking ground on the first phase of its Campus Master Plan. He offered another overview of the phase's components, including the TIDE Center, Sports Performance Building, and a new central campus entrance. In two years, if all goes well, this Vestry meeting will take place in the new TIDE Center. The construction is purposed to meet the demands of the current enrollment (1232), rather than a significantly larger one. Approximately \$40 million of the \$56-59 million total will be raised through philanthropy, with about \$27 million pledged so far in a fundraising campaign that will run through the end of 2026. It will be a transformational moment in the life and history of CCES.

Rector's Report – Harrison McLeod:

Harrison began by describing a difficult recent decision in the Pre-school not to have a 5K class, beginning next school year. That class is always challenging to fill, and for which to budget. Eight students are enrolled this year, after budgeting for between 12 and 16. Each year, several students are withdrawn last minute because other schooling options become available to them. Polling of current students projected a class of about 6 students for next year. Unfortunately, some parents were caught off guard by the decision, and Harrison and Jane Harrison met with a few over their concerns. The Pre-school is eager to keep the current 5K teacher, and hopes to open another section of another class.

The Annual Giving campaign is soon launching, with Chairs Ben and Liza Lovelace and a goal of \$3 million. Another goal is to increase the overall number of pledges. Pledge materials have been updated and will be mailed soon. Harrison gave the Vestry members their envelopes upon exit, and requested a turnaround of two weeks. CCES football coach Quin Hatfield spoke at the church staff Annual Giving kickoff luncheon, and was inspirational.

Harrison reminded the Vestry of the Bishop's visit on 10/19 for Confirmation, to be followed by lunch with the Vestry, and requested Vestry members to save the date.

National events like those of the past week typically raise awareness of safety and security at the church. The Safety Committee discussed the possibility of a resource officer on staff. At \$75 per hour, the cost is significant. Already, the church budgets ~\$22k just for 4 hours of off-duty protection on Sundays.

Senior Warden's Report – Nancy Kennedy:

No report.

Junior Warden's Report – Chan Boyd:

Chan is still working on the windows on Finlay Hall. They can be reglazed in-house, but it is time-consuming. In addition, we are awaiting the replacement fascia from the mill.

In response to a question about wear and tear to the carpet and paint in the Pre-school, Harrison stated that they have been less than satisfied with the work that was done about a year ago. The Church currently pays 20% of the Pre-school carpet cleaning bill, which seems fair for use on Sundays. In addition, Harrison spoke with Angela about the livestream being down, and believes the software update issues have been resolved.

Treasurer's Report – Nelson Arrington & Chris Klasing:

No Treasurer's Report was included in the packet for the Vestry meeting, because the Business Office was occupied with some Pre-school financial matters amidst some staff paid time off. Based on a preliminary, unclosed revenue summary, pledge revenue was ~\$22k lower than budgeted last month, and overall revenue was ~\$30k lower than budgeted. If those finalize, year-to-date pledge revenue will be ~\$43k below budget, and overall revenue ~\$52k below budget.

Chris remarked that these results reflect a typical summer dip, and that he will share the usual monthly report by the end of the month.

[Chris did later send the report via email, and results were under budget for pledge income (\$43.8k) and total (\$49.4k) revenue, but also under budget for expenses (\$126.9K). Overall, the bottom line is better than budget by \$77.5k.]

After a question during the meeting about pledge income receipts, Chris shared by email that just under 30% of pledged income comes from bank drafts, and that 200 out of 700 pledging households donate this way. He also shared four years' history of January and December pledge gifts, as a percentage of annual income:

2021: January 17.0%, December 19.5%

2022: January 20.7%, December 13.5%

2023: January 20.7%, December 9.9%

2024: January 22.5%, December 10.6%

Approval of Minutes from August 19, 2025:

Smyth moved to approve the August minutes, and Phil seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

New Business:

None.

Committee/Team Reports:

As a follow-up to a presentation offered to the Vestry last month, Parish Life shared that there is a desire for the EverKind respite care ministry to partner with the effort already established at John Knox Presbyterian Church. Sometimes, there is a tendency to want to professionalize ministry too quickly. While this proposed ministry is important and impactful, the leaders of the effort are being encouraged to start without employees and rely heavily upon volunteers.

Angelle sent a report that there were blurbs in the Diocesan news about the HoSEA housing stability and eviction avoidance program and the school mission work in Cange, Haiti.

Smyth reported that the Strategic Committee has been studying the current state of philanthropic giving and lessons learned from peer organizations, producing a white paper of sorts. He offered for any members of the Vestry who were interested to email him for a copy of it.

Other Business:

Harrison invited Chan to share the slate of nominees for Vestry approval. Nominated for election to the Vestry were John Patrick Cullen, Harriett Cyrus, Dottie Hollis, Derek Lewis, James McKissick, Margot Stewart, and Bud Thomas. Nominated to serve as Diocesan Convention Delegate were David Traxler and Baker Wyche. Norma seconded the motion from the Committee. With no discussion, all voted in favor, and none were opposed.

Harrison offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:29pm.