

“To love others as Christ loves us”

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

Attending: Harrison McLeod (Rector), Nancy Kennedy (Senior Warden), Chan Boyd (Junior Warden), Cecil Nelson (Chancellor), Nelson Arrington III (Asst. Treasurer), Chris Klasing (Treasurer), Betsy Baumgardner, 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: Wade Kolb III (Asst. Chancellor).

Guests:

Welcome & Prayer:

With the Reverend Dr. Harrison McLeod (Rector) running a few minutes late due to a pastoral concern, Senior Warden Nancy Kennedy opened the meeting in prayer at 5:07pm.

Rector’s Report – Harrison McLeod:

Our new Pastoral Care Coordinator, Jennifer Quinn, starts next week, and will benefit from some training and transition time with the Rev. Scott Fleischer and Michelle Brown. Scott is very excited about her joining the team. In addition, there is a preliminary pool of attractive candidates to replace Annette Cook as Director of Senior Adult Ministry, with no interviews conducted just yet. The sendoff and reception for Michelle and Annette was wonderful, with both feeling appreciated and valued.

A Committee working on the Pre-School transition is making great strides in studying and defining the best leadership structure moving forward. After several follow-up meetings potentially culminating around March 31, the Pre-School will undertake a Director search. With the blessing of DSS, Claudia Coleman is serving in name and face only as Director of the Pre-School until Joanne Pusateri can complete a credentialing class on May 4. Joanne is still completing all Director responsibilities.

Harrison plans to schedule a preliminary meeting to explore an alternate health insurance arrangement for church employees. More information is needed, but this new model involves a flat monthly rate that may result in significant budget savings. Approximately 60 people are covered by the church’s current insurance plan. Suzanne Mize, the Wardens, and the Rev. Stephen Rhoades will attend the meeting, and the Treasurers are invited. Any later decision would be brought to the Vestry for their support.

Senior Warden’s Report – Nancy Kennedy:

Nancy led a short debrief of last weekend’s retreat. All were in agreement that it was productive, enjoyable, and a good use of time. All Vestry members are required to be Safe Church certified, and

should look for an email with instructions to complete that certification, if not already. Finally, Nancy passed around a bag for Vestry members to take note cards provided by Kristen Bennett to thank parishioners who have pledged.

Junior Warden's Report – Chan Boyd:

Chan is looking around the building and property for spaces to clean out and reclaim for good use. This is a work in progress.

Treasurer's Report – Nelson Arrington & Chris Klasing:

The Business Office is catching up, and so there is not yet a monthly budget report. After a meeting on Thursday, the report will be finalized, and Shantel will send it out. Preliminarily, January 2025 revenue looks to be down a bit, and expenses up a bit, compared with January 2024.

The annual budget has also not yet been finalized or entered into the ACS system. Preliminarily, it looks like the budget will fall somewhere around \$200k short, with Annual Giving likely to hit \$2.8m instead of \$3m. Harrison has some plans to cover the difference, and a proposal will likely be presented at the March Vestry meeting.

The Church is processing a significant legacy gift. The Rev. Mary Moore Roberson left much of her estate to the Church Endowment, earmarked for local outreach. Cecil Nelson is working with her attorney. There was some discussion of all the ways that Rev. Roberson contributed to the Church and to the community, with fingerprints on both the Free Medical Clinic and Project Host Soup Kitchen, among many other contributions. Harrison shared his criteria for deploying the funds: it must involve parishioner participation, target systemic change, and aim to become self-sustaining.

Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2025:

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

New Business:

Mary Holt shared a letter from the Rev. Scott Fleischer in his role as a member of the Canterbury Counseling Center (CCC) Board. The letter contained some preliminary questions from the CCC Facilities Task Force regarding their current arrangement occupying half of a building on the Church campus. CCC has been housed on the church campus for approximately 20 years, and offers pastoral counseling with a current staff of 12-14 counselors, some of whom work part-time. There is Christ Church Parish representation on the CCC Board, including Scott, and CCC is outgrowing the space.

The current lease, for \$1 per year in rent, expires in October of 2025. Therefore, the Church is significantly subsidizing that ministry. The Church does count foregone rent in its Mission and Outreach impact for both CCC and Sterling Hope, and it is shown as such in our financial statements. The other half of the building is rented by Sentinel Offender Services for approximately \$55k per year. This is the beginning of a conversation in which both Pastoral Care and Outreach will need to be involved. Questions include the square footage, condition of the building, and whether the two leases coincide. Harrison, the Wardens, and Mary Holt will report back to Scott that the Vestry has received the questions and will respond in a timely fashion.

As an aside, Harrison and others remarked about Christ Church's historical successes as an entrepreneurial parish, giving birth to countless ministries that are now independent operations, most recently Jasmine Road.

Committee/Team Reports:

None.

Other Business:

Chris requested a motion for the regular quarterly draw from the endowment for the church budget, in the amount of ~\$134k and 4.5%. Chan moved and Martha Louise seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed.

The annual Parochial Report, a snapshot of demographic and statistical data in the life of parish, was shared for Vestry approval. After some brief discussion about the altered format from last year, Harrison offered that Shantel and Betty Parker may be able to look at some apples to apples comparisons. John moved to approve and Smyth seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed.

Harrison presented some letters on behalf of proposed Confirmands being presented at an age younger than 16 years. The Bishop allows this alternative, provided documentation is submitted that the Vestry commits to support the proposed Confirmands in their ongoing growth in Christ after Confirmation. First, Charlie and Madigan Hudson turn 16 two weeks after Confirmation on April 27. John moved to approve their letter, and Angelle seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. Next, Mills Smoak turns 16 on June 30. John moved to approve this letter, and Angelle seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. Finally, Harper Jacobs turns 16 on August 20. John moved to approve this letter, and Angelle seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed. All three letters were signed by all members of the Vestry present.

Finally, Harrison presented a Letter of Support for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate for Addie Budnick, our 3rd year seminarian. Addie will graduate this May and has not yet been placed but will not be placed at Christ Church. Betty Parker moved to approve this letter, and Betsy seconded. All voted in favor, with none opposed, and all signed the letter.

The closing Devotion was offered by Chan as a reading from a book by William Barclay. The meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm.