

The Church of the Cross Vestry Minutes

June 28, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Fr Owens at 4PM in The Chapel Conference Room.

PRESENT: Fr. Owens, Rod Musselman, Sallie Brach, Michael Simon, Tom Durston, Stew Brown and Millard Simmons. **ABSENT:** Joanne Byrd (excused), Doug Barone(excused).

I. **INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME** (Millard): New Vestrymen Tom Durston and Stew Brown. This expands the Vestry from 6 to 8 members for the future as well.

II. **PRAYER AND DEVOTION** (Sallie): Prayer was offered followed by introduction of the topic of *Stephen Ministry*. The inspiration for this ministry was St. Stephen who was blessed with Christian caring and wisdom. He became the first Christian martyr (Acts chapters 6-7). The Rev Dr Kenneth Haugk founded the movement out of need for lay ministers to supplement clergy pastoral care. On March 16,1975 Rev Haugk commissioned the first 9 Stephen Ministers in St Louis, MO. Since, over 600,000 Stephen Ministers have been trained and it has become an international organization. They provide Christian caring and support in one-on-one efforts to bring the broken to wholeness.

III. **MINUTES** (Joanne): The Vestry Minutes of May 25, 2022, were distributed electronically and were approved as written. They will be added to the Resources section of the Parish website.

IV. **FINANCIALS** (Michael): The newly assembled Financial Committee met for the first time on June 27, 2022: Chair Michael Simon, Kevin Sevier, Don Davis and Stew Brown.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Our income in May was \$223,630 (vs. a budget of \$192,298). Our expenses were \$205,023 (vs. a budget of \$232,425). Restricted accounts remain in a healthy standing.

VI. **OTHER:**

1. **BYLAWS** (Fr Owens): The final draft of amended and restated bylaws of TCOTC was

distributed electronically. It was approved with no further additions or corrections 6/28/22. It will be added to the Resources section on the parish website.

2. **PARISH HALL** Rod): The PH repairs are well underway and are on schedule as anticipated.

3. **VESTRY DATES** (Millard): Planned meetings are generally the third Thursday each month at 4PM in The Chapel conference room. Scheduled dates, barring any need to adjust the schedule, are as follows: Wednesday, July 27; Thursday, August 18; Thursday, September 15; Thursday, October 20; Thursday, November 17; and Thursday, December 15.

4. **LAY STAFF REORGANIZATION** (Fr Owens): See "My Fellow Servants" handout – copy follows below

VII. **FINAL**: Sallie closed in prayer. The next meeting will be WEDNESDAY, July 27, 2022 at 4PM in the Chapel.

Millard will provide the prayer and devotion.

Respectfully Submitted,

G. Millard Simmons, Senior Warden

My Fellow Servants,

By God's grace and favor, the number of people of all ages choosing to journey with us into the Lord's new tomorrow is continuing to increase; with this growth has come a clear call to discern and seize the diverse ministry opportunities now appearing on the horizon. We have been entrusted with much; and as the Good Book says, much is expected from us. To this end, Nathan, Elisabeth and Rebecca have been tasked as follows with addressing what I believe to be the three strands of God-honoring team work: clarity in short- and long-range objectives, communication of the strategies being used to implement the desired objectives, and accountability for the successes and failures achieved.

I. Faith Formation – Nathan Weaver

1. Cross Schools: This fall, a record number of students will be on campus (almost 700), one-year-olds through high school juniors . . . what an opportunity that presents to shape the next generation for

Christ! Our goal: every child hearing the Gospel every day. Nathan's team will include: Barb Ready*, Leslie Albert*, Michael-Anne Land, David Ray* and David Fisher* (*joining our staff in August). This ministry will also extend to staff members, parents and the extended School community. Additionally, Nathan will be serving on the School's administrative team, thus contributing to its overall direction. Though an initiative of TCOTC and under its oversight, this ministry will receive partial funding from Cross Schools.

2. The Parish: The potential outreach possibilities among the children of this parish family and their friends, nursery through high school, is now of such magnitude that a very strategic goal-oriented-approach with an increased emphasis on discipleship is mandated. Working with Tim Edwards, Michael-Anne Land and a host of volunteers, in August Nathan will begin implementing this shift in focus from fellowship among participants to in-depth relationships with Jesus.

II. Pastoral Care – Elisabeth Markle

1. The Parish: For some nine months, Elisabeth has been working diligently to coordinate the existing care ministries, to revive those ministries that have not regained their momentum since the cessation of in-person ministries two years ago, and to build an awareness of new opportunities to serve those in need. This vast undertaking is made more challenging by the diversity of its components (from Stephen Ministry to Healing After Loss, from the Caregivers Support Group to the Dinner Ministry, from Goin' Home to Operation Christmas Child, and some dozen more in place or envisioned). The goal: to maximize service delivery across our sphere of influence through volunteer recruitment, training, and interfacing with non-parish care providers with the hope of creating more effective ways to identify and connect more people to the wide variety of Church-offered ministries.
2. The Community: Cross Christian Counseling will be birthed this fall under the direction of Lauren Weaver aided by Caitlin Fisher, both of whom have completed the graduate programs necessary for full certification in South Carolina. Given the paucity of Christian counseling available in this area, we fully expect this ministry to

experience demand from day one and to expand rapidly thereafter. Though Lauren and Caitlin (and other future counselors and administrators) will be on the staff of TCOTC as of September 1st, this program will be funded by client fees, with the parish providing financial assistance for those in need. Hopefully, Cross Christian Counseling and the various pastoral care ministries will prove to be a mutually beneficial service delivery team.

III. Parish Administration: Rebecca Hamilton

- This fall, the non-clergy members of our ministry team will number thirty-two, fifteen full-time and seventeen part-time . . . quite a change from the two part-time folks who assisted my efforts twenty-six years ago! These staffing additions have been commensurate with our steady growth in membership (now 2,200+); and their roles have evolved to meet the needs of our eighty-plus ministries and the thousands we strive to serve. Some work entirely on one of our campuses, others work remotely from home, still others do a bit of both - all join our invaluable volunteers in supporting our Vision: "To be a community of Christ-imitators in which people are respected, loved and called to God-honoring excellence as they serve the Lord and others in His name."
- While each of these servants has in mind a sense of individual purpose, a consistent effort has not been made to capitalize on the potential impact of a more unified focus of our time and talents. Our mission is simply too important to the present and future well-being of our members, visitors, and the vast numbers of folks who look to us for spiritual guidance via the internet to continue to utilize "a small congregation approach" to staffing and production in what has become one of the largest congregations in the Anglican Church in North America. In July, Rebecca will formally begin to refine our approach to ministry support; Charlie Fiddler has just come on board to strengthen and coordinate our use of technology and to guide our desire to achieve God-honoring efficiency and excellence in the use of this critical tool for ministry; Christian Ray will be joining her on August 1st to assist in defining and implementing the critical steps needed to take what will be for us a giant leap into God's new tomorrow in church staffing and productivity. Regine Johnson, assisted by Alena Horton, will continue to hold the parish's financial reins.

I have always had your prayers and cooperation as we ventured through a season of change – I am confident that, as Nathan, Elisabeth and Rebecca lead on my behalf, they will be accorded the same.