

**THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES**  
**FEBRUARY 23, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Owens at 12:30pm in the Conference Room of The Chapel.

**PRESENT:** Fr. Owens, Michael Simon, Stew Brown, Linda Laird, Craig Pelley, Wayne Bowerman, Lee Watkins and Joanne Byrd

**ABSENT:** Tom Durston

**I PRAYER AND DEVOTION:** Michael Simon

Michael opened our meeting with prayer and then read Genesis 1:1-4...*'darkness was over the the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. And God said, Let there be light there and the light was good.'* While visiting Germany over Christmas where their day light hours are very short, 9:30-4pm, Michael noticed the people did not smile and tended to be downcast as they dealt with economic issues, the darkness and perhaps Christmas Blues. He and Sonja then traveled to Norway to view the Northern Lights where the days are even shorter with daylight hours between 11am and 2:15pm. Here they found cheerful people, houses filled with light. The city had a glow about it; there was something very special. He compared it to Matt. 5:14-15 as being a 'city on a hill cannot be hidden' and 1 John:5 speaks of Light and Darkness, Sin and Forgiveness. Ps 139:5 assures us 'even the darkness will not be dark to You; the night will shine like the day for darkness is as light to You.'

At TCOTC, the Christian Counseling Center has been a "Light in the Darkness" to many people filled with sadness giving hope. Other scriptures about Light, Goodness and Hope which come from God were found in John 1:6, 12:16; Ecclesiastes 2:14 and Revelation 21:23.

**II MINUTES:** Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes for January 26, 2024 were electronically distributed and were approved as written.

**III FINANCIALS:** Michael Simon

## **Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting February 2024**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow!**

We continue to be amazed with the generosity and blessings we continue to receive.  
Our plate income for January was \$326,734.85 (vs. a budget of \$225,525)  
Our total Revenue income for January was 385,948.85 vs a budget of 293,650.

Our total expenses in January were \$257,777 vs a budget of 315,213.33.

These total January income and expenses includes the Faith Formation income, Mission Outreach Income and Donations, Cross School Scholarships, Counseling Center, Diocesan Pledge and Diocesan Blessings.

Below is the request to approve the February funds that the Mission Board recommends for disbursement.

The Mission Board has on hand at the end of January \$320,402.32.  
They have already commitments for February (funds which they allocate monthly) \$22,274.  
The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting Grant Allocations for February for \$17,300 for a total distribution of \$39,574.

Keep in mind, any request from any Mission, needs to first have an application filed, then reviewed by the Mission Board, who discuss, pray and vote for a decision.

**The financial Board reviewed the request, filed and approved a motion to recommend to the Vestry to APPROVE the request for funding.**

Linda presented and reviewed the request for funds to the Vestry. There was a motion to approve the funds disbursement, it was seconded and approved unanimously by the Vestry.

Restricted accounts remain in healthy standing and our cash position remains very strong

February PLATE Income MTD is \$186,589.07 against our PLATE budget of \$212,260 with one Sunday remaining

### **Other Business**

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The Sweep accounts, under CSB Intrafi Accounts, are now in place and reflect on the Balance Sheets, as current assets, keeping our accounts protected under FDIC guidelines and earned interest in December of \$2,336.41

### **Streaming**

Every day, we have an average of 200 people visiting our websites of which half are first time viewers. Streaming is extremely important to most important avenue for us to reach our faithful. Just to show you the impact, just this past week, our website and streaming reaches an average of **15 different countries, 9 different states every month.**

**Our blessings do continue to flow for which we say, Thanks be to God.**

## Attendance Below

In-person attendance numbers please compare December 2022 to 2023 below

2024						ATTENDANCE TOTAL					
						CROSS P	CROSS	CURRENT	YTD	MTD	YTD
						10:30	SCHOOLS	MONTH	2024	2023	2023
JANUARY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM				6384	6,384	2,451	2,451
	7th	143	69	237	189	643					
	14th	117	57	256	140	560	700				
	21st	117	57	256	140	560	450				
	28th	152	83	303	144	561	450				
		529	266	1052	613	2324	1600				
								CURRENT	YTD	MTD	YTD
								MONTH	2024	2023	2023
FEBRUARY	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM				4729	11,113	5,956	12,817
	4th	126	75	203	160	535	400				
	11th	144	79	252	177	531	700				
	18th	155	86	277	167	662					
	25th										
		425	240	732	504	1728	1100				

**To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 69,995 vs. 34,609 in 2022.  
Praise God.**

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

## **OTHER:**

### **A. THOUGHTS ON THE ANNUAL GATHERING on February 13, 2024**

Vestry thought the Annual Gathering went very well. It was streamed by many.

### **B. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF CROSS SCHOOLS**

Motion was made for the appointment of Rick Harrell, Daniel Thompson and Mitch Brach to the Board of Cross Schools. Motion was put forth and approved by Vestry.

### **C. STATUS OF PROJECT REMODEL OF SUNDAY SCHOOL SPACES /CROSS SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

Work will begin on April 1, 2024 with completion in time for school to start.

### **D. STEW BROWN RESIGNATION FROM VESTRY**

Stew will be resigning from Vestry on March 1, 2024 after many years of faithful service on Vestry and serving TCOTC. Vestry says goodbye to Stew with grateful hearts for all the Lord has called him to do. He and his dear wife, Judy, are moving to KC to be closer to family.

### **E. DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES —CONVENTION —MARCH 8-9, 2024**

Delegates are Laura Strange and Mill Simmons. Newly elected Sr. Warden, Michael Simon and Jr. Warden, Craig Pelley will also attend Convention.

This is the last year the convention will be held at Cross School Campus.

### **F. CHURCH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP II —MARCH 16, 2024—CRAIG PELLE**

Craig has organized presentation and will meet with new Vestry to bring them up to date.

### **G. ELECTION OF SENIOR WARDEN, JR. WARDEN, SECRETARY AND TREASURER**

Congratulations to our new Vestry officers: Sr. Warden—Michael Simon, Jr. Warden—Craig Pelley, Secretary—Linda Laird, Treasurer—Lee Watkins

### **H. PARKING AT HISTORIC CAMPUS.**

Cars parking for all church services must be parked in official parking spaces or they will be subject to parking tickets from Bluffton Police Department. Announcements will be

made concerning this matter during services.

**CONCLUSION**

Michael closed our meeting in prayer Our next Vestry meeting will be on March 15, 2024 at 12:30pm in the Conference Room of The Chapel. Linda Laird will do prayer and devotion.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd`