

## **THE CHURCH OF THE CROSS VESTRY MINUTES**

**APRIL 21, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Fr. Owens in the Parish Hall Library. Fr. Owens, the Vestry and Fr. Weaver then toured the newly remodeled Cross Christian Counseling Center. A brief orientation of the facility and how it is to be used was given by Rev. Andy Nix (Licensed Counselor), Elisabeth Markle (Care Ministry Coordinator) and Cristen Fisher (Counselor). Please see Handout for details.

**PRESENT:** Fr. Owens, Millard Simmons, Michael Simon, Sallie Brach, Stew Brown, Tom Durston, Linda Laird, Craig Pelley and Joanne Byrd

**GUEST:** Fr. Nathan Weaver

### **I PRAYER AND DEVOTION:** Millard Simmons

Our meeting was opened with prayer from the Book of Common Prayer 2019. The topic of Millard's devotion was the Immigration Problem. How do we as Christians address this issue from a none political view. "The Matthew 25 Initiative of the ACNA companions and contends for Shalom in broken places encountering Jesus as they serve those who are vulnerable." We are all truly Immigrants as we journey through this life. Scripture from Luke 10 and Matthew 28 teaches we are to love and serve all others in our human needs being spiritual or physical. Our biblical ancestors from Abraham to Moses to Joseph to David to Daniel to Lord Jesus Christ all were Immigrants. As Christians we are called to love our neighbor as ourself serving the vulnerable with love, compassion and dignity.

### **II JURISDICTION OF ARMED FORCES CHAPLAINCY AND CHAPLAINS:**

A. Fr. Weaver gave us an overview of what will happen as David Fisher proceeds through his four week discernment process to become a Chaplain at TCOTC as he steps down from the Faith Formation Team at Cross Schools. Fr. Weaver is trusting this process can be completed by August as Discernment Panel is being organized presently.

B. June 1, 2023 TCOTC is honored to host the Jurisdiction of Armed Forces of Chaplaincy And Chaplains Diocesan Convention. 250 Chaplains and their families are expected to attend. Fr. Weaver shared, "Chaplains are the arms of Jesus."

### III MINUTES: Joanne Byrd

The Vestry Minutes of March 17, 2023 were approved as written and electronically distributed.

### IV FINANCIAL MINUTES: Michael Simon

#### Financial Minutes Vestry Meeting April 2023

##### **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 March was \$225,918.7 (vs. a budget of \$230,410.45). Our total Revenue income for March was \$330,636.70 vs a budget of \$272,508.45.

Our total expenses in March were \$253,563.57 vs a budget of \$259,504.02.

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

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

The Mission Board has on hand at the end of March \$263,327.99. They have already commitments for APRIL (funds which they allocate monthly) \$18,097. The Mission Board has done their diligence and research through applications, and is requesting \$44,200 a total number of \$62,297.

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 Laird 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

April PLATE Income MTD (3 weeks including Easter) is \$138,329.65 against our PLATE budget of \$220,709

#### Other Business

We were in touch with a company named Synergi Partners, to explore the opportunity of receiving ERC (Employee Retention Credit) from the COVID crisis. Father Owens, Regine and I have had several calls with them, understanding what needs to be done to qualify. Once approved, we will move forward providing them with the necessary payroll and "loss of business" information to vent the qualifications. Our exposure is a \$250 deposit and we don't pay their fees until the IRS funds the ERC applied for amount. Michael made a motion to proceed and which was seconded and a vote of yes to proceed.

We are also reviewing with our banking partners ways of earning interest on funds sitting in our accounts, with having term deposits. Regine is checking with Truist, CSB and PSB on instruments available. Our intent is two-fold, protect accounts in excess of the \$250,000 FDIC insured limit and having our blessings at work while in the respective accounts.

#### 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, 8 different states every month.**

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

**Attendance Below:**

In-person attendance numbers:

							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022	
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSSP 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	5956	12,817	1,891	4,342	
5th	108	69	216	159	458	400					
12th	95	67	195	110	463	400					
19th	136	86	335	149	469	550					
26th	149	75	218	144	505	400					
	488	297	964	562	1895	1750					
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022	
<b>MARCH</b>	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	CROSSP 10:30	CROSS SCHOOLS	5633	18,450	2,463	6,805	
5th	133	91	266	171	493	400					
12th	93	61	247	121	372	600					
19th	120	99	245	151	499	400					
26th	109	91	238	158	475						
	455	342	996	601	1839	1400					
							CURRENT MONTH	YTD 2023	MTD 2022	YTD 2022	
<b>APRIL</b>	HIST 5:28	HIST 8AM	HIST 10AM	CHAPEL 9AM	Holy Week/ Sunrise	CROSSP 10:30	CROSSP 9AM	5,558	24,008	3096	9,901
2th	134	104	312	175	1161	445					
Easter	375	235	393	272	139	521	200	2,135			
16th	152	77	234	163		466					
23rd											
30th											
	661	416	939	610	1300	1432	200				

**Easter Service Attendance in 2023 was 2,135 vs. 1,817 in 2022.**

**To date, our 2023 in PEW attendance was 24,008 vs. 9,901 in 2022.  
Praise God.**

Submitted Respectively,

J. Michael Simon, Treasurer

**V MISSION OUTREACH MINISTRY:** Linda Laird

A detailed Report of April Disbursements of \$18,097.99 was given. Motion put forth and Vestry voted to approve April Disbursements of \$18,097.99 to ministries. (see handout)

**VI. A. FOLLOW UP: CROSS LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP:** Mill Simmons

Suggestions were: Shorten Sessions, Better Map, More Details on Each Ministry  
Print complete Leadership Emblem in Handout

EASTER HOLY WEEK: Well attended services and no major parking problem with two 9 o'clock services going on at The Chapel and Cross Point at the same time.

**B. "GHOST ROADS":** Fr. Owens

The Town of Bluffton has asked for help in clarifying and determining property boundaries and right of ways on many unnamed roads in the Town of Bluffton. Ray Cook has surveyed TCOTC properties and its information as been sent to TCOTC attorney.

**C. FIRST QUARTER NEW MEMBER STATUS:** Fr. Owens

Please see detailed handout....Our growth comes from New Riverside area and West. In the first quarter of 2023, 81 new members formally joined the church compared to 59 during same time last year. We praise God for his faithfulness in growing His church!

**D. LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FALL OF 2023:** Fr. Owens

Please see detailed handout which covers: 1. WORSHIP —2. PARISH CHAPLAIN—  
3. PASTORAL CARE— 4. WEDNESDAY NIGHT TEACHINGS—5. FAITH  
FORMATION—6. MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP—7. YOUTH MINISTRY—8. PARISH  
FAMILY ASSIMILATOR

**E. ELECTION OF VESTRY OFFICERS:**

Senior Warden—Millard Simmons, Jr. Warden—Stewart Brown, Finances—Michael  
Simon, Secretary—Joanne Byrd

**F. DISCUSSION ON IMPROVING AUDIO IN THE PARISH HALL**

Vestry made suggestion to Fr. Owens to have a Sound Engineer check the acoustics in the Parish Hall to better mprove the sound/hearing capability for teachings and meetings.

**CONCLUSION:**

Millard closed our meeting with prayer. The next Vestry meeting will be May 19, 2023 at 12:30pm in The Chapel Conference Room. Joanne Byrd will have devotion and prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Byrd